

Reagan renews his efforts to secure MX missile funds

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan last night made a strong appeal to save the MX missile programme, which is under attack in Congress, saying that to falter now would encourage the Soviet Union to ignore United States arms control efforts.

"We must not cast doubt on United States and allied resolve not reward the Soviets for their current belligerent behaviour towards arms control," he said at a hastily arranged news conference on the eve of the debate in the House of Representatives on the 1985 Pentagon Budget Bill. The Senate has already passed its version of the Bill.

The President said there was "no more compelling programme on our agenda" than getting the Russians to resume the arms control talks.

Mr Reagan regretted the Soviet withdrawal from the intermediate nuclear force (INF) talks and his failure to agree to the resumption of the strategic arms reduction talks (Start).

"We remain prepared to resume negotiations immediately without preconditions," he said.

He claimed that the Soviet Union was now flight-testing two new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) — the misnamed SSX24 and the SSX25 — and had others under development.

The Soviet Union has a comprehensive programme to strengthen its strategic force. We cannot afford to delay any longer. Without Peacekeeper

(the MX), the incentive for the Soviets to return to the negotiating table is greatly reduced. The Soviets hope that, once again, our modernization efforts will be curtailed.

The President added that for the sake of United States security and the cause of world peace, "We must support the bipartisan national programme that we approved last year."

The President's statement was designed to pressure members of the House of Representatives to approve the full \$3.1 billion (£2.2 billion) he wants to keep the MX missile project on target. He wants the money for production of a second instalment of 40 of the 10-warhead missiles, a key element of his strategic modernization programme.

He pointed out that the missile would not be deployed even in limited numbers until late 1986. The Soviet Union, however, deployed over 800 SS17's, SS18's, and SS19's, missiles that are similar to or larger than the MX.

Mr Thomas "up" O'Neill, the speaker of the Democratic-controlled House, predicted at the weekend that the House would cut off production money for the missile as it debates the Pentagon budget Bill.

So far the White House has been adamant that Mr Reagan will not compromise on his request for full funding for 40 missiles.

Mr Reagan said: "The US has



Mr Arthur Scargill giving a greeting at the pitmen's protest in Mansfield yesterday.

20,000 in miners' protest march

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Mansfield

It was strikers' day in the heartland of the moderate Nottinghamshire coalfield yesterday, and the citizens of Mansfield are unlikely to forget it in a hurry.

An estimated 20,000 pitmen, and their wives from strike-bound coalfields including Yorkshire, Scotland, South Wales, Derbyshire and Lancashire, together with local miners who are on strike, took part in the biggest demonstration yet staged in the county.

They crowded through the town's narrow streets, chanting ribald slogans about Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, a two-mile-long procession of mill-lane designed to attract the attention of the Midlands to join the strike.

For the most part, the occasion was more like a miners' summer gala than a protest march, and the police presence was small — a few constables on the kerbside, berated with the now-customary "Sieg Heil" salutes.

But as the public houses closed in the town centre, glasses and bottles were thrown in the market place and there was fighting. Police entered the fray in force. At least 12 officers were injured and there were 60 arrests.

Those rowdy scenes marred what would otherwise have been a classic day of protest, registering the slow-burning wrath of the miners in a way that few outside their communities have an opportunity to see.

With hundreds of banners on show, ranging from the floral and traditional to home-made ones from Nottinghamshire pits bearing legends such as "Calverton strikers — banner withheld by scabs" the demonstration pointed up the differences among the miners as well as enthusiasm for the strike.

It was remarkable, also, for the high proportion of women marching under makeshift banners with slogans such as "We married men, not mice". The involvement of miners' womenfolk has emerged as a key issue in the battle over pit closures.

The demonstrators took three-quarters of an hour to pass one point as they left the car park of the Mansfield leisure centre, and the head of the procession was back in the protest arena only three minutes after the tail had got away. The mood was all expectation and confidence. They clamoured onto the roofs of buildings nearby to sing "Here We Go, Here We Go, Here We Go" and "There's only one Arthur Scargill".

The speakers did not disappoint them. Mr Tony Benn was there to tell them that they were going to win because Tony ministers had never dug any coal. The parents of Mr David Jones, who died on a picket line at Ollerton, were there to show their support.

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, was there to remind the strikers: "It is no longer a question of heavy picketing. It is all about them and us." The

Pit talks may be held in secret

By Our Labour Editor

Moves are afoot to bring together miners' leaders and the National Coal Board for "informal" talks on the future of the industry.

Despite warnings yesterday from Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, that the coal strike could last six more months, steps are being taken behind the scenes to bring the two sides together.

Secret talks on an informal basis could take place later this week, but the groundwork for such discussions is being held up by the union's insistence that pit closures are not negotiable.

Leaders of the colliery deputies' union, Nacods, are continuing to act as go-betweens in delicate peace moves tentatively disclosed by Mr Scargill after last week's meeting of the NUM national executive.

The advantage of an informal meeting is that it would get both sides off procedural hooks on which they have impaled themselves. The board wants a full meeting of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council, bringing together all the unions in the industry but only on a "consultative" basis, while the NUM has demanded negotiations within the industry's conciliation scheme, which is normally the forum for pay bargaining.

Previous leaders of the miners, particularly Mr Scargill's predecessor, Lord Gormley, regularly indulged in secret talks with the board chairman and government ministers, usually in London hotels. But the more puritanical left-wing leadership now in control of the union has until now rejected this style of doing business.

However, it now seems possible that the two sides may get together — perhaps in Sheffield, where the union headquarters are situated — to have free-ranging talks on the future, although the union has not backed off from its insistence that there must be no colliery closures except on grounds of exhaustion of These initiatives are going on in private despite the public rhetoric which yesterday reached new heights when Mr Scargill told a demonstration in Mansfield that the strike could go on until November or December.

You have got a union leadership who are prepared to lead until we win," he said.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary-elect of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Trades Union, warned the miners yesterday that his union would not allow itself to be used as "yet another domino" in attempts to bring down the Government.

Speaking at the EETPU's electricity supply industrial conference in Scarborough, he urged his members in the power stations to work on.

Millions lost, page 2

Russian Olympic pull-out 'is final'

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The decision to withdraw from the Olympics is irrevocable, Mr Marat Gramov, head of the Soviet Olympic Committee, said yesterday.

Russia would go to Lausanne on Friday for an emergency meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), but he held out no hope of a change of mind. Mr Gramov was also pessimistic about a planned visit to Moscow by Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, who hopes to see President Chernenko. "As far as I know, Mr Samaranch is coming, but I do not know what we will discuss," Mr Gramov said.

Addressing a crowded press conference — the largest since the airliner crisis and with the same atmosphere of defiance in the face of criticism — he revealed for the first time that anger over the State Department's response to a list of Soviet complaints had been the final straw. At a meeting on April 24, the Russians, the IOC and the Los Angeles organizers had agreed to examine Soviet grievances over lack of security for athletes and planned anti-Soviet demonstrations.

Three days later, however, Mr Gramov said, the State Department rejected the complaints as a fiction and blamed "extremism and terrorism" in America on Moscow. "We decided any further effort would be useless," Tass later underlined Mr Gramov's remarks by saying that the withdrawal was final and irreversible.

Mr Gramov accused the White House of placing political ambition above the interests of the Olympic movement. He referred repeatedly to an anti-Soviet group called the "Bolsheviks" and said Russian lives could have been in danger. "Terrorist" groups had planned to force Soviet participants to defect by kidnapping them or administering drugs.

Mr Gramov was flanked by athletes, including Anatoly Denisov, the weightlifter, and Anatoly Myshkin, the lanky basketball player, both of whom looked a little less than happy target for kidnappers.

Asked if he was not painting too dark a picture, Mr Gramov insisted that conditions in Los Angeles were pitiful. Soviet athletes would have been treated like spies.

Mr Ueberroth described the charge as inexcusable and an "outrageous insult" to the American people. "I am listening to their complaints, and there is not one that holds any water as far as I can see."

Tomorrow

The other coalface
As the pit strike grinds through its third month, Wednesday Page comes face to face with the miners' wives.



Jesse/George
Could Jesse Jackson end up as a black George Wallace?

Border battlers
Stuart Jones reports on the England team chosen by Bobby Robson to face Scotland next week.

End of an era
Tom Bauer on the life and crimes of Walter Rauff, architect of the mobile gas chamber, who has died in Chile.

Death fall banker in 'spy' claim

Mr Dennis Skinner, a British banker who died in a fall from his flat in Moscow, had said two days before that he knew of a spy in the British security forces and feared he would be arrested by the KGB, an inquest in London was told.

Page 3

BMW hit as strike bites

BMW's Munich plant will grind to a halt on Thursday, the first victim of the German engineering workers' strike, which is hitting component factories.

Page 8

'No strike' drive

The electricians' union has further angered traditional trade unionists by extending its drive to sign no-strike agreements to the M4 high technology "corridor".

Page 2

Poll violence

Thugs destroyed ballot boxes and intimidated observers when opposition candidates took the lead during vote counting in the Philippines general election.

Page 8

Reuters boycott

Financial institutions are maintaining their refusal to underwrite Reuters Holdings as its stock market debut, but they may buy shares once dealing starts.

Page 21

Warsaw defied

Eleven jailed Solidarity members are reported to have followed the advice of the union's underground leadership and rejected a freedom deal by the Polish Government.

Page 6

Video firm fails

London and Liverpool Trust, the company behind the 'Teletext' pay videos, called in the receiver with debts of up to £25m.

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School walkouts

Britain's second largest teaching union is extending a mounting programme of strikes to selected schools over the next few weeks, starting in Cambridgeshire and Cheshire.

Page 2

New arrivals

The West Indian cricketers arrived here with six players who have not toured England before. Their first match is at Worcester on Saturday.

John Woodcock, page 30

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Heseltine changes tack over Navy

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government announced a major change in its policy towards the Royal Navy yesterday with a decision that up to eight frigates and destroyers which were to have been "mothballed" in the stand-by squadron are now to remain in service with the fleet.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said the decision meant that the number of destroyers and frigates available at short notice for Nato or other commitments would be increased by up to 20 per cent compared with previous plans.

About 2,000 men will be needed to crew the ships, and the navy will have to find these from within its present establishment, while at the same time reducing its strength by roughly 8,000 between now and the early 1990s.

These facts emerged from the publication of the annual statement on the Defence Estimates.

Mr Heseltine also announced that the army was to re-deploy 4,000 men from support activities into front-line units, and later in the decade an additional armoured regiment, the 12th would be formed in the British forces in Germany. This will

add roughly 50 tanks to British fighting strength in Germany, which will also be enhanced by the introduction of a new air defence missile.

During the next decade the RAF will be required to operate an additional 15 per cent front line aircraft without any increase in manpower.

The decision to retain up to eight frigates and destroyers in service constitutes a major reversal of policies worked out by Sir John Nott when Defence Secretary in 1981.

His review of that year called for the number of frigates and destroyers to be reduced from 59 to 30 of which up to eight would be placed in the stand-by squadron. These measures were bitterly fought by Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Henry Leach, then Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, and by Mr Keith Speed who was dismissed as navy minister because of his opposition.

Mr Heseltine said that one reason for not putting the ships in the stand-by squadron was that he doubted whether in a service constitutes a major reversal of policies worked out by Sir John Nott when Defence Secretary in 1981.

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Thatcher asks for report on MP's arrest

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister has asked for a report from Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Mr Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West, and the reasons why the Government did not hear about it until eight days after it occurred.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is clearly disturbed by the Government's handling of the affair as a result of newspaper inquiries last Friday. There is concern over how details of the arrest of someone who had not been charged came to be leaked to a newspaper.

Mr Hampson, who resigned on Saturday as parliamentary private secretary to Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, over his arrest in a Soho gay club on May 3 yesterday said that he had no intention of resigning as an MP.

Whitehall sources, meanwhile disclosed that Scotland Yard was aware after Mr Hampson's arrest, for an alleged indecent assault on a plainclothes policeman on routine surveillance duty at the club, that he was an MP, but not that he held the defence post.

It was said that they learnt of that much later on. Ministers assumed that could explain why the police did not inform the Home Office or the security services of the arrest. Mr Hampson has not been charged with any offence, although a report is with the Metropolitan Police solicitors.

Mrs Thatcher has not talked to Mr Hampson about the incident but he was spoken to yesterday by Mr John Wakeham, the Government Chief Whip.

Mr Hampson apologized to his constituency yesterday for his embarrassment which the affair had caused.

Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is to amend police rules to emphasise that plainclothes officers investigating possible sexual offences involving homosexuals should never act as "agents provocateurs". Mr David Mellor, junior Minister at the Home Office, announced

acquisitions and new works ranging from new prison and Crown Court buildings to a new heating system for Parliament which will cost £172m this year.

Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill, highlighted the case of new Crown Court buildings in Liverpool recently opened by the Queen which, according to official PSA estimates, have cost £20m so far and will cost an additional £2m in future months.

An official admitted the true cost had been £43 million and no further money would be spent on the courts.

Sir Hugh told the five senior PSA officials that the com-

mittee, which is inquiring into the Department of the Environment's estimates for this financial year, wanted to find out which PSA projects kept to original financial forecasts and how many "have got out of hand and have gone wild".

Mr Michael Hawtin, the PSA's principal Finance Officer, said after the grilling by the MPs: "We want to have a presentation that is as helpful as possible to MPs. We have been doing it a certain way but we now see problems in the way we were doing it. We will go away and have another think."

He said revised and corrected tables of financial estimates would be sent to the committee.

Seven die in shoot-out after rocket attack

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Seven people died in Durban late on Sunday night in a shoot-out between South African police and urban guerrillas who had earlier fired rockets at an oil refinery, setting it ablaze. The fire was quickly extinguished, and according to the Mobil Oil Company, which owns the refinery, no serious damage was done.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed yesterday by the underground African National Congress. In a statement from its headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, the AWC said that different units of Um-

PSA under fire on 'misleading' figures

By Richard Evans

The Property Services Agency (PSA), which will spend £532m this year on accommodation services for Government departments was criticised by members of an all-party Commons Select Committee last night for providing inaccurate, confusing and totally misleading budget figures.

One Conservative MP described the official tables outlining the organization's spending plans as "gobbledygook" and another said they were "absolute rubbish".

Sir Hugh Rossi, Conservative MP for Hornsey and Wood Green and Chairman of the Environment Committee

Critics: Sir Hugh Rossi (left); Mr David Alton

told PSA officials who were giving evidence "If you wanted to come out to confuse everybody as to what you are about you could not have gone about it in a better way."

The MPs were particularly critical of the PSA budget for

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Electricians' union takes no-strike deals to 'sunrise strip' companies

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

One of Britain's biggest unions has extended its new drive to sign no-strike agreements. Despite growing fury among traditional trade unionists, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trades Union is offering binding arbitration deals to non-union companies along the M4 "Sunrise Industry" corridor.

Its fresh recruitment campaign started among high-tech technology companies in Scotland, much to the anger of local left-wingers.

Mr Ken Biggs, a former car industry convenor, has worked for four months in the Thames Valley corridor preparing the new membership offensive.

Of the extension of the campaign, Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary-elect of the electricians' union, said: "There is a lot of hostility to unions in the area, particularly among the multiplicity of small firms and also among those that are American-owned."

"Our researches suggest that there is a good deal of misunderstanding often because it is the worst features of trade unionism that gain attention. We are well placed to overcome these difficulties by offering the kind of guarantees that will benefit both the company and its employees."

The union, which faces fierce condemnation at the TUC congress in September, has pioneered such deals in Britain. The object of the new campaign is to increase union penetration into anti-union sectors by increasing the number of such deals which formerly existed in isolated pockets.

Mr John Grant, former Social Democratic Party MP and now the union's spokesman, said there was no question of the union selling any fundamental principle.

"In a nutshell, that's all bunk", he said. "There are a number of major unions who are only too pleased to do these deals if they can. We are not objecting to people calling these no-strike deals, because the agreements make them extremely difficult, if not virtually rule them out. But there is nothing to stop members turning the agreements over if they do not work to their advantage."

Anti-union plot alleged

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Leading Japanese and United States high-technology companies have been accused of forming an anti-union conspiracy when establishing British production plants.

Mr Roy Sanderson, national officer of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, said yesterday: "The evidence is circumstantial but I think there are some union-busting consultants involved in this conspiracy."

Mr Sanderson's accusations came at the announcement by Toshiba of Japan that it is to build a microwave oven factory in Plymouth.

Toshiba has a single-union collective agreement with the union at its television plant in Plymouth and is likely to negotiate a similar deal for the new factory.

The union's no strike deals have been criticized by other trade unionists but have been implemented at other companies such as Sanyo and Immos. Mr Sanderson said two more were being negotiated.

But he said the union was finding increasing difficulty in recruiting workers in newly arrived international companies.

At a time when unions were being attacked, managements were trying to replace collective representation with policies such as counselling services covering a worker's personal as well as working life, he said.

The Toshiba deal replaces the seven unions that operated during the ill-fated tie-up between Toshiba and Rank. An egalitarian, single-status system is operated and disputes can be settled by so-called "pendulum" arbitration.

Teachers to extend pay strikes

By Colin Hughes

Britain's second largest teaching union is to extend its programme of strikes during the next few weeks.

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union will begin half-day strikes in Cambridgeshire today, Cheshire tomorrow and a Welsh authority from next Monday. The association has held lightning selective strikes in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight since last week.

Yesterday the association began similar action in Leeds, closing 11 schools, of which three were in the constituency of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science. Altogether 2,490 children were sent home yesterday, and another 3,800 will be sent home today.

The association said yesterday it had planned selective strikes in four more authorities from June 4, in another four from June 11, and in yet another four from June 18.

With ballots of National Union of Teachers members being held from tomorrow on selective strikes, it is becoming clear that the teaching unions are preparing for a long dispute.

Both unions are also continuing to work-to-rule, refusing to cover for absent colleagues or to supervise lunchtimes.

Many authorities are putting pupils on a timetable of days off. Others are sending year groups home.

Further education lecturers may also reject the 4.5 per cent pay offer.

A survey of 750 schools and colleges has found 82 per cent support for government proposals to introduce "pupil profiles" as a record of children's school careers.

The results of the Northern Examinations Board survey, published today, will give strong impetus to Department of Education and Science plans to push ahead with a national scheme.

MPs' fear over benefit cut for pit families

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Fears that the families of miners on strike are likely to suffer increased hardship because of new rules governing the payment of benefit will be expressed today to Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security.

A deputation of Scottish Labour MPs, which is due to discuss aspects of welfare policy with the minister, is especially concerned at recent guidance given by his department to officials handling benefit claims in Scotland.

The officials have been told to treat as income any emergency loans made by local authority social workers to alleviate destitution, and to deduct an equivalent sum from supplementary benefit payments.

The loans are made under the strictly defined terms of section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act.

The MPs are concerned that the new regulations, made available to them by Mr Boyson's office last week, require the Department of Health and Social Security staff to nullify the considered judgment of social workers who visit miners' families in trouble and weigh each family's needs.

Alliance launches its campaign for Europe

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen yesterday launched the Alliance campaign for next month's European elections by pledging to lift the sights of the electorate to the advantages and potential of the European Community rather than focusing on its deficiencies.

Publishing its manifesto a week before the Conservative and Labour parties, the Alliance intends to make a virtue of its Europeanism.

In their foreword to the manifesto the Liberal and Social Democrat leaders say: "Being much more seriously concerned and informed about Europe, we can be more critical and more constructive than the other parties about its very real problems."

"Too many British political leaders have concealed their inability to provide imaginative direction to the Community behind a surly anti-Europeanism. We have no patience with these attempts to play to the gallery of outdated nationalism."

The Alliance began its campaign for the June 14 poll accepting that all parties may have difficulty in rousing the electorate. It made no forecasts about its chances. The turn-out will obviously be a key factor.

Labour shuns Oxford debate on EEC

By Anthony Bevin

The Oxford Union has failed to find a Labour front-bencher to speak in an EEC debate with Mr Edward Heath, Herr Helmut Schmidt and Mr Enoch Powell.

Mr Mel Stride, president of the undergraduate debating society, said last night that negotiations were being held for the television rights. "People should be jumping at the chance. I am just amazed."

Mr Powell has agreed to oppose a motion "that the

future prosperity and security of Europe rests with the European Community" on condition that the Union finds someone of comparable standing to join him against Mr Heath and the former West German Chancellor.

Mr Stride is baffled by the spate of excuses and refusals he has received from leading Labour figures. "Possibly it is because they are not sure that they want to come out at this stage and start talking about their policy on Europe."

Home improvements: 2 Outlook is bleak despite grants review

Local authorities in different parts of Britain are suffering from the effects of Government housing cuts and the backlog of grant applications. Several Scottish councils have imposed a moratorium on repair and improvement grants, and Welsh authorities are finding themselves in a similar position.

In Birmingham, the very extensive improvement programme, one of the largest in the country, has been stopped for all but mandatory grants and help for special cases such as the disabled. There is now a two-year waiting list.

Lewisham council in London says there is little hope for people applying for discretionary improvement grants unless the Government makes more funds available to deal with the backlog. The council is continuing to accept applications from people in priority categories, but admits there is no guarantee of their approval.

In Lewisham, grant applications have increased five times since 1981 and there are now enough applications in the pipeline for the whole of this year and most of the next.

The local authority associations are trying to persuade the Government of their need for more money, not least because

of the effect of imposing value-added tax across the whole range of improvements and alterations. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities estimates that this measure will increase the authorities' bill by £30m-£35m this year.

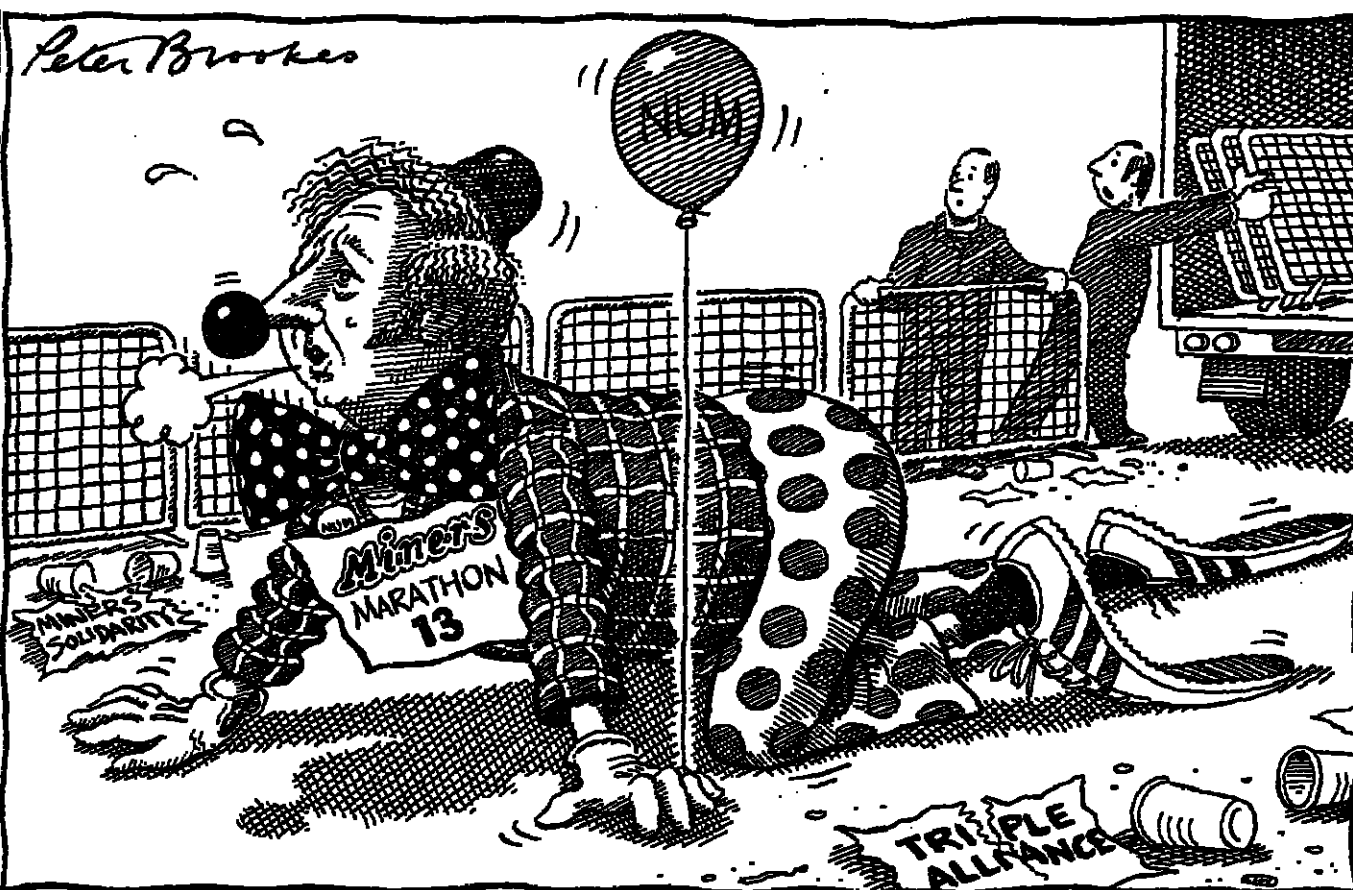
If they succeed, it will only paper over the cracks. Under the present arrangements the variety of policy options open to local authorities is both a strength and a weakness.

The Institution of Environmental Health Officers argues: "The lack of continuity of finance often does not permit consistency of policy over the years. Consequently the public, who have difficulty in understanding the complexities of the grant scheme anyway, cannot be certain of entitlement to a grant, or whether to improve or repair their homes".

The complexities are one of the reasons for a review now in progress. It was announced at last autumn's Conservative Party conference by Mr Ian Gow, the Minister for Housing and Construction, and is being conducted in the Department of the Environment after pressure from the Treasury.

The Treasury is concerned that the grant should go where it is needed, and that taxpayers' money should not be spent to subsidize those who would have carried out the improvement work anyway.

It was shown in the second part of the English House Condition Survey report, published last December, that households in unsatisfactory dwellings were more likely to be headed by an elderly person, often single, and the institution of the stock, deteriorating, the grant system in disarray, and with slum clearance at a low level, the future of the housing stock looks bleak without increased and better directed investment in housing."



White-collar threat of action over pay

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The largest Civil Service union has decided to start a campaign of industrial action if the Government refuses arbitration in pay talks covering 500,000 white-collar staff.

The Civil Service unions, seeking a 7 per cent increase, have rejected the Government's 3.7 per cent offer and talks have halted.

Yesterday delegates at the Civil and Public Service Association conference called on the Government to increase the offer or agree to a settlement through binding arbitration.

Mr Alistair Graham, the union's general secretary, said civil servants would be prepared to take disruptive action over the principle of arbitration being refused. However, he

Earlier the conference censured the executive for failing to mount a campaign supporting the pay claim and for not holding a one-day pay conference to agree the claim. The leadership argued that a special conference would have been costly and irrelevant.

Videos on Inter-City

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Video films and continental-style catering are to be introduced on British Rail's Inter-City trains later this year in an effort to beat air and coach competition.

Video equipment will be installed initially in special lounge cars on selected trains and will show the latest feature films, news bulletins and travelogues possibly at a small extra charge. If popular they will be extended more widely.

Mr Cyril Bleasdale, BR's

Inter-City director said at a press conference in Glasgow yesterday: "Our market research shows that a lot of passengers don't want video. They want to eat, sleep, read or work."

On the catering side, BR trains will start to feature lasagne, curries, and a host of more exotic dishes as a result of new techniques of microwave cooking. Food will be prepared off the train, cooked by microwave on train, and served at the seat, cutting costs and it is hoped meal prices which Mr Bleasdale admitted are currently "on the high side."

£1m tag on portrait that sold for £3,150

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotbey's have put a likely price tag of at least £1m on a Renaissance painting sold by its arch-rivals, Christie's, for £3,150 13 years ago. The painting is a portrait of Cosimo I de' Medici by Agnolo Bronzino.

Though a good deal has happened to the painting, and inflation, since Christie's sold it from Lord Margdale's collection at Fonthill House in 1971, it remains to be seen whether the auction in July really will push the price as far as Sotbey's estimate.

The man responsible for spotting that the painting was better than Christie's billed it was Mr Cyril Humphris, the Bond Street dealer. He bought it and had the grime-covered picture cleaned to reveal a work of masterly technique.

Christie's Sunday sale in Geneva of Art Nouveau and Deco bookbindings totalled

£354,991, with 23 per cent left unsold. Sotbey's two day sale in New York spanned the whole range of artefacts and finished with a total of £808,794, with 24 per cent unsold.

Detail from Bronzino's Renaissance painting.

Lack of pit repairs costing millions

By Craig Seton

Equipment and coal worth millions of pounds are being lost because of lack of routine maintenance at pits hit by the miners' strike. Machinery worth £2m and an entire coal face have been lost at Rossington colliery, near Doncaster.

According to the National Coal Board, the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers responded too late to warnings about serious overheating of a coal seam and is ignoring calls to carry out other routine but essential work.

The board said yesterday: "An increasing number of pits are coming up against these problems and we will see more incidents like this in the next few weeks."

No union official from the Yorkshire area was available for comment yesterday.

Lack of routine maintenance during the overtime ban which preceded the strike has already caused the closure of Bogsda colliery, near Dunfermline, because of serious flooding and a methane gas build-up.

In Lancashire yesterday miners whose union agreed that

they should go underground at the strikebound Bold colliery near St Helens to carry out work on a rapidly-deteriorating coal face failed to turn up.

A board official said that a 6ft-high seam had been crushed by pressure to less than 4ft, trapping power supports and damaging the coal face shearer. If essential work was not carried out the coal face and equipment worth £2m would be lost.

According to the board's Yorkshire area, the union asked early in April to carry out the regular six-monthly "recapping" of the coupling which attaches the pit's winding ropes to the shaft cage at Rossington colliery.

The union eventually carried out the recapping when overheating started in a coal face but it was too late to save it or the equipment.

A protest is to be made to the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill, after the pet of a Stoke-on-Trent miner, Mr Neil Oldacre, who has worked throughout the dispute, died in agony, blinded by red paint thrown over it by men daubing "scab" slogans on Mr Oldacre's house.

NUJ 'blacks' talks on new technology

By Our Labour Reporter

Members of the National Union of Journalists on provincial newspapers are to be instructed to "black" negotiations with their employers on new technology.

The instruction comes after newspaper owners refused to give representatives paid leave to attend a national conference in London on the subject this Friday.

Mr Michael Smith, national technology officer of the union, said yesterday: "They have got to make up their own minds if they are serious about new technology. If they are they have got to let us meet and discuss it."

He said existing agreements would be honoured, but discussions on new deals would be "frozen" unless the Newspaper Society, the employers' body for provincial newspapers, changed its mind.

Man shot dead as police foil post office raid

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A post office raider was shot dead and another man seriously wounded yesterday when police fired on masked men attempting to steal a large quantity of cash. A third member of the gang at Ballygally post office, near Larne in co Antrim, was detained and, after treatment for facial cuts, questioned by detectives.

The raiders struck at the premises opened after a delivery of cash but they were almost immediately challenged by armed Royal Ulster Constabulary officers. A broken replica Colt 45 gun was discovered at the scene. It was not clear if police were acting on information received but there were reports that officers dressed as maintenance men were inside the post office.

The RUC increased patrols in the area after an attempted raid at a post office nearby

Protest on 'police incitement of gays'

By Michael Hornell

The National Council for Civil Liberties is to ask the Law Commission to investigate claims that the police are acting as agents provocateurs to secure the arrest of homosexuals in London.

Mr Larry Gostin, the council's general secretary, has written to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, calling for an investigation into the case of Dr Keith Hampson, Conservative MP for Leeds North-West, who was arrested by a plain-clothes officer in the Gay Theatre Club, Berwick Street, Soho, on May 3.

Mr Gostin claimed that the arrest was a breach of paragraph 192 of the Consolidated Circular to the Police on Crime and Kindred Matters and the instruction book issued to all officers which forbids the police from counselling, inviting or procuring the commission of a crime.

He also asked the Government to put forward an amendment in the House of Lords to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill which would make incitement, or procurement a defence in a court of law.

Mr Gostin said: "The use of agents provocateurs by police is both serious and alarming. The extent to which crime is instigated or encouraged by the police and their agents and informers is not known, but there is a clear case for assuming that police are helping to create crime."



Dr Hampson: Inquiry called for.

A campaign by the Gay London Police Monitoring Group, backed by MPs, to end alleged police harassment is now being stepped up.

Gay organizations pointed to the arrest of 25 homosexuals in Earls Court last summer. Six of these cases went to Knightsbridge Crown Court and five defendants, who alleged that police deliberately tempted them to make propositions, were acquitted earlier this year.

Police activity is allegedly concentrated in and outside gay public houses in the Earls Court area and at the Gay Theatre Club, a £5 per head continuous male striptease show.

Ms Lisa Power, of Gay Switchboard, an advisory service for homosexuals, said: "It is widespread, not only in clubs but in general areas. There is a great deal of evidence of police entrapment."

"One will make contact with a gay, invite him home while making an excuse for not being able to go to his victim's home, walk off with him, only for another officer to step in and reveal that they are police officers," she said.

Overseas selling prices: America \$28.25; Australia \$28.50; Canada \$28.75; Europe £18.00; France 100 francs; Germany 100 DM; Italy 100,000 Lira; Japan 100,000 Yen; New Zealand 100 NZD; Norway 100 Kroner; Portugal 100 Escudo; Spain 100 Ptas; Sweden 100 Krona; Switzerland 100 Francs; Taiwan 100 NT\$; USA \$18.75; Yugoslavia 100 Din.

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Banker in Moscow death fall said he knew of a British spy, inquest told

By John Withrow

A British banker who was killed last year in a fall from his apartment in Moscow said just before his death that he knew of a spy in the British security forces, an inquest in Croydon, Surrey, was told yesterday.

Mr. Dennis Skinner, the Moscow representative of the Midland Bank, gave a note to a British neighbour, Mrs. Valerie Cane, two days before his death saying that he feared arrest by the KGB before he attended an embassy party on the Queen's birthday.

The note said: "I think I'm going to be arrested as I go to the garden party this evening. I will never get out alive. Please go immediately to the embassy and ask them to have some guards ready if I try to rush in... say I will have a lot to tell them and that they have a spy in their own security forces. For God's sake do this or I am dead. Burn this immediately."

The note, which was handed to Mrs. Cane in complete silence, was taken to the head of security at the British Embassy, Mr. John Burnett, who alerted staff there in case there was an incident when Mr. Skinner arrived.

Mr. Skinner, aged 54, a respected and long-standing member of the British business community, who was married to a Russian, told the diplomats

that he was under pressure from the KGB to try to get his wife to return to the Soviet Union from England. Both of them had been in touch with the KGB for several years.

He said that his contact in the KGB, a man called Alec, who he met weekly, had taken against him and planned to arrest him because he had failed to get his wife, Lyudmila, to return.

As a result, he feared arrest on a number of pretexts, including illegal currency dealings or having "pornography" in the form of a book by Max Weber, called *Social and Economic Organisation*.

"He was passing information to the KGB but I don't think he was employed or entirely controlled by them," Mr. Burnett told the jury of six men and two women.

Just two hours before he died on June 17 in a fall from his eleventh floor apartment in Leninsky Prospekt, Mr. Skinner telephoned Mr. David Ratford, the minister at the embassy, and told him: "The charge is espionage and they are going to keep me like a cabbage to enable them to control my wife."

The embassy staff took Mr. Skinner's fears seriously enough to put him up at a diplomat's home and to offer him sanc-

ary until he was due to return on leave to England on June 20. The court was told by several people that although Mr. Skinner was agitated at that time, he was normally a restrained and well-balanced person.

Mr. Burnett, a first secretary seconded to the embassy from the Ministry of Defence, said that Mr. Skinner told him at the reception that "he needed to get off the streets for a few days because he was in trouble with the KGB. He expected to be arrested on false charges and detained indefinitely until he became a cabbage."

Mr. Burnett did not ask him about his allegation of there being a spy in British intelligence, but he sent details back to London on June 16 because they could be more appropriately investigated there.

Later, the coroner, Dr. Mary McHugh, who last year tried to hold the inquest in camera, asked Mr. Ratford if there was any truth about there being a spy in the security forces. He replied: "It was an allegation only."

After the reception on June 15, Mr. Skinner was taken to a British Embassy dacha outside Moscow where he told diplomats that he had been in contact with the KGB for several years.

When Dr. McHugh asked about British secret agents in Moscow she was challenged by counsel for the Crown, Mr. Andrew Collins, who said that the question went beyond the scope of the inquiry.

Although the Foreign Office has repeatedly said that there was no reason for the inquest to be held in secret, Mr. Collins emphasized at the outset yesterday that he may yet apply for a hearing in camera if the inquest strays into sensitive areas.

The inquest was adjourned until today.



Mrs. Valerie Cane (left) and Dr. Mary McHugh.



Starting young: Sakeena Alam and Tanya Mentzis, both aged five, of the Young London Ballet School, with Ekaterina Maximova, prima ballerina and leader of the Moscow Classical Ballet, which begins a British tour at the Dominion Theatre, London, tomorrow. It will be the first big Soviet company to visit Britain for more than a decade (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Intoximeter print-out rejected

A drink-driving charge was dismissed yesterday after a specialist in alcohol analysis gave evidence that the print-out from an Intoximeter 3000 at Holloway police station contained the "oddest set of memory bank figures" he had ever seen.

Mr. Ronald Denny, a lecturer who has written books about

drinking and driving, and makes recommendations to the Home Office on the subject, was giving evidence at Highbury Magistrates Court, north London, on behalf of the defendant, Mr. Philip Biggs, aged 31, a builder, of Tomlins Walk, Andover Estate, Holloway, north London, denied driving with excess alcohol on

July 22 last year, at Andover Road, Holloway.

The print-out contained two readings for Mr. Biggs. The first part of the sample of breath gave a reading of 51 micrograms but the second part was not completed. The prosecution was repeated, but once again only one reading of 57 micrograms was received.

Busy royal schedule revealed for D-Day celebrations

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Normandy for next month's D-Day celebrations will be busier than generally expected, details announced by Buckingham Palace yesterday show.

They will be in the area behind the beaches for about nine hours and will squeeze in six engagements between arriving on the Royal Yacht Britannia and leaving by air.

As well as the main ceremony at Utah Beach, to be attended by President Ronald Reagan, they will also visit the British beach area at Arromanches to review a parade of British Normandy veterans.

Earlier, they will attend a ceremony with President Francois Mitterrand at the Commonwealth war graves cemetery at Bayeux and the Canadian cemetery at Beny Sur Mer.

The announcement of the Queen's itinerary for the visit on June 6, 40 years after the D-Day landings, which began the Allied invasion of Europe, had been delayed so that the arrangements necessary for such a crowded day could be worked out with the French authorities.

Mr. Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, said: "It will be a very busy day, but it is an extremely important occasion."

The Queen would be there as Queen of the United Kingdom and also of the other Commonwealth monarchies, including Canada, which took part in the D-Day landings, he said.

The day will begin at 11 am, after an overnight crossing in Britannia from Portsmouth, with what the Palace describes as an "unofficial visit" to the town of Caen. It is understood that this is likely to include a reception and meetings with local dignitaries.

Two hours later the Queen and Duke will be hosts for a private lunch on Britannia.

The next engagement, and the first public part of the

itinerary, will be at 3.40 pm, when the Queen and the Duke attend the ceremony with President Mitterrand at the Commonwealth war graves cemetery at Bayeux. The ceremony at Utah Beach follows at 4.50 pm and the ceremony at the Canadian Cemetery at Beny Sur Mer, with President Mitterrand and Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, also in attendance, is scheduled for about 6.20 pm.

● The parade of British Normandy veterans at Arromanches, at 7.05 pm, will be followed by a visit to the D-Day museum near by. At the end of the day the Queen and Duke will return to Britain by air.

● British veterans of the Normandy landings were overjoyed yesterday at the announcement that the Queen will attend the ceremony at Arromanches.

Mr. Eric Bullman, chairman of the Normandy Veterans Association, said: "We are absolutely delighted. It has made a world of difference with the Queen going because, otherwise, most of the publicity would have been on the US sector."

The 3,000-strong association has been battling for months against French plans to hold the main ceremonies on the US landing beaches. The veterans were determined to hold their ceremony north of Caen, at beaches labelled Sword, Juno and Gold, where British and Commonwealth troops landed.

● The 272 ft long Overlord Embroidery, which commemorates the D-Day invasion, was installed yesterday in the new £1.25m D-Day Museum in Southsea, which is to be opened next month by the Queen Mother. The embroidery was commissioned in 1968 by Lord Dulverton and took five years to complete at the Royal School of Needlework.

Stress of infertility 'like that of cancer'

From Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent, Helsinki

An infertile woman who finds she cannot become pregnant can face the same psychological crisis as one who is told she will die of cancer within three months, a leading test tube baby specialist told an international conference of in-vitro fertilization scientists in Helsinki yesterday.

Dr. Ian Johnston said several of his patients at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, had required acute psychiatric treatment after the failure of in-vitro fertilization and one had committed suicide.

Couples were "under terrific pressures" and the specialist needed to understand what they were going through, Dr. Johnston said.

The two-year waiting list at his hospital was one of the hardest pressures for couples to bear, he said. Other pressures came from the natural instinct for procreation, responsibility to the partner, pressure from members of the family and from friends and acquaintances.

Loss of sexual harmony, anger, frustration, despair and total loss of intimacy between couples often resulted from the stresses associated with infertility, Dr. Johnston said.

Doctors had dilemmas because most of them had had no

psychological training to cope with their patients' problems.

Research on so-called "spare" human embryos must be permitted and replacing them in their mothers womb could be more unethical than studying them, Dr. Robert Edwards, one of the world's test tube baby pioneers told the conference.

Dr. Edwards said that he and other British scientists were awaiting guidance from the Warnock Committee, which is due to report to the Government next month of far reaching ethical legal and social implications of in-vitro fertilization.

On spare embryos he said: "I have no doubt we must do this research. It is essential to look at these embryos growing in-vitro, to do research on them, to improve methods and introduce new concepts."

"There must obviously be limitations on our work but I believe that to replace a human embryo in any clinic without knowing that everything has been done to make sure it is as normal as we can possibly make it, is far more unethical than studying the embryo in the first place."

Bail for pilot accused of killing wife

Peter Hogg, an airline pilot accused of murdering his wife, was freed from prison yesterday after being granted bail in a hearing from which press and public were barred.

Mr. Hogg, aged 56, of Cranleigh, Surrey, had been in custody for trial charged with murdering his wife, Margaret, whose bound and weighted body was found in West Water, Cumbria, last February. She had been missing since October 1976.

Mr. Hogg, who also faces charges of perjury and concealing his wife's body, had been refused bail by Guildford magistrates.

Yesterday at the Central Criminal Court Judge Underhill, QC, granted Mr. Hogg's release on bail totalling £20,000, which is to be provided by three sureties.

The conditions of bail are that Mr. Hogg should surrender his passport and pilot's licence, not fly any aircraft, live at his home address and report regularly to a police station.

Grunwick libel by BBC

Grunwick, the film processing company which was at the centre of a dispute over union recognition eight years ago won substantial libel damages against the BBC for the second time in the High Court yesterday.

In an Open University programme last year, the BBC alleged that Grunwick and its managing director and founder Mr. George Ward had dismissed Asian and West Indian female employees because they decided to join a union. In December 1982 the BBC had apologized for broadcasting similar allegations.

Murder charge man remanded

North Avon magistrates yesterday refused to grant bail to Mr. Graham Winston Backhouse, a farmer, who is charged with the murder of his neighbour Mr. Colin Bedale-Taylor at the village of Horton, near Bristol, on April 30.

Mr. Backhouse, aged 43, of Widdon Hill Farm, is also charged with the attempted murder of his wife, Mrs. Margaret Patricia Backhouse, on April 9. He was remanded in custody for seven days. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Snooker gives BBC the lead

Television coverage of the world snooker championships gave the BBC the lead in the latest viewing figures issued by the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

In the week ending May 6, the BBC had 54 per cent of the television audience. The sport gave BBC 2, which usually had about 10 per cent of the audience, 20.4 per cent of viewers. Independent television programmes took seven of the top ten places in the overall viewing figures.

'Minder' for £6m gang jailed

Allen-Opiola, a garage proprietor, was jailed for three years and three months at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for helping a gang which carried out a £6m raid at Security Express in east London at Easter last year.

Opiola, aged 35, of Chase Ridings, Southgate, north London, was willing to give evidence against the gang and that had put his life in danger, the court was told.

Det. Chief Insp. Peter Wilton of the Flying Squad told the court that only a small amount of the haul had been recovered.

Mr. Barnaby Waylen, for the defence, said the gangsters put pressure on Opiola and he eventually agreed to help them. But although he acted as a "minder" he had no idea of the nature of the crime.

Mr. Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said Opiola confessed to helping the gang by providing transport for them, making his house available for the storage and counting of the loot, providing sacks and suitcases "laundering" £75,000 for one gang member and burning cheques, Luncheon Vouchers and other property.



Miss Kathryn Warsaw: "Angry".

Praise for girl who tackled Tube hooligans

A student who helped a man being attacked on a London tube train by football hooligans was described as a heroine by a judge yesterday.

Miss Kathryn Warsaw, aged 18, was awarded £25 at the Central Criminal Court by Judge Argyle, QC.

As she left court, Miss Warsaw, of Leytonstone, east London, said: "I hate violence. When I saw a gang of brutes having a go at a young man it made me angry."

Anthony Bolding, aged 23, a betting shop clerk, of Meath Road, Stratford, east London, was jailed for eight months after he admitted assaulting Miss Warsaw.

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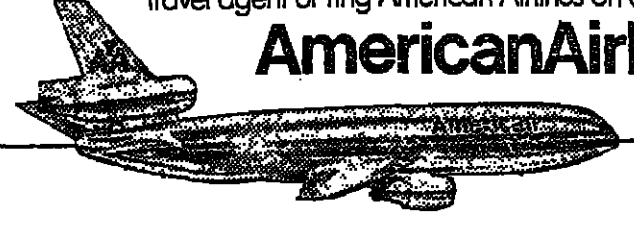
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PARLIAMENT May 14 1984

Walker resists pressure to call coal leaders together

COAL DISPUTE

Mr Peter Walker Secretary of State for Energy, again reaffirmed in the Commons that coal stocks at power stations were sufficient to meet demands for many months. Pressed by Labour MPs at question time to intervene personally in the dispute, he said that the Government had intervened by ensuring that there had been massive investment in the industry and that there was enough money to pay adequate pay increases and redundancy payments.

Since the dispute started, Mr Walker said, miners on strike had lost more than £100m in wages.

Mr Edward Taylor (South East, C) asked the supply of coal at power stations showed that the strike was pointless and futile. The only result of its continuance (he added) would be the loss of wages for miners and in the longer term a loss of customers and jobs.

Mr Walker: The miners have lost a substantial amount in wages. The tragedy of the timing of this dispute is that we were being very successful in conquering new markets.

In December 1978 industries applied for grants to go for coal conversion and at present none are applying. This is doing considerable damage to the future prospects of the industry.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L) asked when the Government would intervene to try to find common ground between the parties to the dispute.

Mr Walker: The Government has already intervened to a considerable extent. It has made enough money available to see that the miners are made a better price for their coal than already accepted by the power and gas workers and that all miners who wish to remain in the industry will be able to do so.

The coal industry has enjoyed for the past five years and will enjoy for the next three years the biggest capital investment programme it has ever had. All that is substantial intervention.

Mr Stefan Tereziak (Cardiff West, C) asked if it was likely that in the end there would be many pit closures that was originally envisaged because of this unnecessary strike.

Mr Walker: I hope the miners will reflect on the range of opportunities and future opportunities available. With the potential conquest of new markets and the rewards of a massive capital investment programme there is a good potential for the future of this industry. At present it is being damaged and harmed. I hope that harm will cease as quickly as possible.

Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab) said there would be no winner and it was time that someone got the parties round the table for talks on realistic arguments from both sides.

Many miners' families were suffering great financial hardship. Does the minister not think (he went on) that he has some responsibility for it, or does he think he can continue to sit on the fence like his boss and get sadistic pleasure out of people being bashed into submission?

Mr Walker said he derived no pleasure from the dispute. That is why (he continued) my colleagues and I decided to make arrangements whereby there was a decent pay offer, massive investment and no need for a single compulsory redundancy.

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Mr Walker: With a decent pay offer, no need for any compulsory redundancy and a massive investment programme there is no need for them to suffer hardship.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) invited the minister to confirm that since in Scotland there was substantial hydro, oil and nuclear power the coal industry in Scotland would last indefinitely.

Mr Walker: There are substantial coal stocks at Scottish power stations. It is also true that coal stocks at power stations throughout the UK will last a long time.

Mr Terry Patchett (Barnsley East, Lab) said the dispute was about jobs. Would Mr Walker not fight for his future?

Mr Walker: I realize that. That is why I believe it is right for the Government to declare that in the next few years it will invest another £3,000m in new capital investment to see that there is a future for that industry.

Mr Peter Rost (Erewash, C): Would the minister not agree that the attitude to the future of the industry with what is happening under a socialist government in France where high cost pits are being closed and miners made redundant, partly because the nuclear industry has proved much more competitive?

The Labour Party, saying that the way the NUM's annual delegate conference is being used to circumvent a national ballot, is equivalent to this House cancelling a general election. If Labour continues to deny the right of democracy to the miners it can never be considered worthy of holding office in this country.

Mr Walker: I have read that article. In fairness to the Leader of the Opposition, the day that Mr Scargill persuaded the delegate conference to change the rules on balloting came out in favour of having a ballot. In the weeks since then he has not repeated that argument, but I hope that he soon will do so.

Mr David Wilep (Canterbury, PI C) said that in view of the great suffering of the miners and their families and the danger to the long-term future of the pits the minister must get stuck in, bring people together and achieve an early solution.

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Mr Walker: The French Government was elected on a promise to increase coal production by 50 per cent and has now decided on a programme of reducing it by 50 per cent. It has also decided to reduce the number of miners in France by 50 per cent.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab) said Mr Walker should accept the responsibility of his high office and not sit out the dispute until the power stations were out of coal. This was tragic for industry and for the nation.

Is it not (he continued) in his interest to intervene directly in the dispute and to use the powers of his office to get people around a table to seek a solution in the national interest?

Mr Walker said he used his high office to see that enormous financial provision was made, that there was a decent pay offer and no compulsory redundancies, and that there was record investment in the coal industry.

That is using this high office (he added) to the benefit of the mining industry.

Mr Walter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said Mr Walker seemed to be going rather further than the National Coal Board in saying there would be no compulsory redundancies, certainly not within particular coalfields.

While Mr Walker seems to be emphasizing the fact that the Government has intervened (he continued), he is not doing any service to the industry or to his department or to the community at large by flatly refusing to take part in tripartite negotiations.

Mr Walker replied that two mining unions were willing to take part in negotiations. Only one union decided months after month that it would not have such talks.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton South, C) said one of the saddest things was that Mr Arthur Scargill had forecast that coal stocks would run out and had consistently been proved wrong. Britain was losing trade to Poland and thousands of tonnes of coal were coming in on long-term contracts to the detriment of South Yorkshire and South Wales particularly.

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It was true that Mr Scargill had said 13 weeks ago that there were only eight weeks of coal stocks at the stations. Two weeks later it was said to be 10 weeks. Six weeks ago the figure was nine weeks. Now it was eight weeks. In fact there were many months of coal stocks available at the power stations.

Mr Ray Mason (Barnsley Central, Lab): How long does Mr Walker intend to stand idly by, watching the mining industry for which he has prime responsibility, crumbling into disrepair? Why does he not invite the chairman of the National Coal Board and the president of the NUM to his office for a discussion on the industry's future. Talks may then ensue which could bring an end to this problem.

Mr Walker said the Government had not stood idly by. It had been for the last 10 years (he added) that the Government, which Mr Mason

Government is investing more, in paying more, and in looking after miners better than they ever did.

Mr Walker said during later questions that the main effect of the dispute was to damage the prospects of inside the pits and of the whole industry.

Those on strike had lost more than £200m in wages, and progress in encouraging industry to convert of coal had been stopped.

Sir William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C) asked if Mr Walker had noted reports of intimidation of wives and families of individual miners. This was abhorrent to most people.

Did Mr Walker have any evidence that this, or any other measure, NUM had reducing the number of miners continuing to work?

Mr Walker replied that one could not measure the effect of intimidation on the numbers going to work in any day. But at the end of last week record numbers were working. This morning more miners arrived at the pits than at the same time last week.

Sir John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam, C): Many people in the coal industry, particularly Yorkshire, did not want to go on strike but were driven out by flying pickets and intimidation. I am waiting for a plea from the Opposition to Mr Scargill to meet the chairman of the NCB with the other two unions on Wednesday.

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Commentary



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What is an office?

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

Nato narrows the gap in conventional forces

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

In the past year Nato has narrowed the gap between the strength of its armed forces and those of the Warsaw Pact in tanks, submarines and other important categories of non-nuclear weapons.

This is disclosed in the 1984 Statement on the Defence Estimates which was published yesterday. It goes into considerable detail about the efforts which Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, is making to improve the value for money which the armed forces get from the £17,000m defence budget.

An annex to the White Paper gives the balance of conventional forces between Nato and the Warsaw Pact in 10 categories of conventional weapons on the Central front in Germany and at sea in the Eastern Atlantic.

In only one category — that of surface ships — does the balance favour Nato, but a comparison with last year's White Paper shows that in five categories, main battle tanks, artillery, anti-tank guided weapons, submarines and maritime aircraft, the gap has been reduced. In the other categories of non-nuclear weapons the balance remains unchanged.

This may be a product of the decline in the rate of growth of defence spending by the Soviet Union which the White Paper reports. This is estimated to have been about 4 per cent a year up to the mid-1970s, but to have declined by more than half in subsequent years.

The white paper says: "It is clear that, as in the West, the defence sector cannot be considered in isolation from the rest of the economy." But it adds that it is not clear whether this slackening of the Soviet rate of growth is a long-term trend.

Despite the economic recession within which the present Conservative Government has had to operate since it came to power in 1979, the White Paper shows that British defence spending by 1983/84 will have risen by more than 20 per cent in real terms since then.

In terms of total defence expenditure, Britain's last year remained second only to the United States in terms of total defence spending and spending per head, among all Nato member countries, and moved up from fourth place to third in defence spending as a percentage of gross domestic product.

Command No. 9227, volumes 1 and 2, HMSO, £4 and £4.50 respectively.

EAST-WEST FORCES: THE CHANGING BALANCE

1983		CENTRAL FRONT FORCES		1984	
NATO	WARSAW PACT			NATO	WARSAW PACT
790,000	980,000			800,000	980,000
Ratio 1:1.25		Total soldiers		Ratio 1:1.23	
600,000	740,000			590,000	740,000
Ratio 1:1.23		Fighting soldiers		Ratio 1:1.22	
7,200	17,800			7,800	18,000
Ratio 1:2.6		Main battle tanks		Ratio 1:2.5	
2,700	8,000			3,000	8,200
Ratio 1:3.0		Artillery		Ratio 1:2.7	
7,400	10,200			7,900	10,300
Ratio 1:1.4		Anti-tank guided weapons		Ratio 1:1.4	
1,300	2,700			1,300	2,700
Ratio 1:2.1		Fixed-wing tactical aircraft		Ratio 1:2.1	
80	54			80	57
Ratio 1:1.4		Surface ships		Ratio 1:1.4	
32	61			36	83
Ratio 1:2.6		Submarines		Ratio 1:2.3	
291	444			300	460
Ratio 1:1.6		Maritime aircraft		Ratio 1:1.6	
850	26,000			850	26,000
Ratio 1:31		Mines (offensive)		Ratio 1:31	

Greater efficiency by cutting costs

The Statement on the Defence Estimates says that the Government is determined that the capability and efficiency of the armed forces shall continue to be enhanced and improved, but the resources which can be devoted to defence are not limitless.

"The interests of the taxpayer must be safeguarded by the most rigorous scrutiny of the defence budget to secure maximum cost-effectiveness."

It says that the Ministry of Defence is far from inefficient, as the mounting and support of the Falklands operation showed, but the organization must be changed to cut overheads, improve accountability and encourage delegation and the more efficient use of resources.

Within the individual services the shift from support areas to the front line is gathering pace. Between 1981 and 1988 the Royal Navy will reduce the number of men

employed ashore by 25 per cent. Three shore establishments will have closed by the end of 1985 and others will close later.

In the five years after 1988 a further fall of 15 per cent in shore-based numbers are planned to be about 11,000 lower than in 1981.

The Royal Air Force will aim within the next decade to hold manpower steady while the number of front-line aircraft increases by 15 per cent, and the Army will redeploy three per cent, about 4,000 men, of its strength from support areas to the front line.

By thus strengthening the front line and through the introduction of new equipment including a new mechanized combat vehicle, the multiple-launch rocket system, a new air defence missile system and the Saxon armoured personnel carrier, the fighting capability of the Army will be strengthened "to an extent not seen in the past three decades".

It is intended to contract out more than 30 per cent of army equipment repair. In the Royal Navy the cost-effectiveness of contracting out six sample support activities will be tested.

The White Paper says: "Generally, we shall seek to apply the principle that the only work carried out within our own defence support organization should be that which is essential for clearly proven operational reasons or where there is financial advantage for the taxpayer."

Paris takes Gaddafi's Chad offer seriously

From Diana Geddes
Paris

A proposal by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, for a simultaneous withdrawal of the Libyan and French "presence" from Chad is being taken very seriously in official circles here.

It is considered the first recent hopeful sign of a possible end to the nine-month impasse in Chad. President Mitterrand is studying the details of the proposal, and is expected to give France's reply soon.

It is not the first time Colonel Gaddafi has made such a proposal, and the French-backed Government of President Hissène Habré is clearly highly sceptical, dismissing it as a further "delaying tactic", designed to enable the Libyan leader to reculer pour mieux sauter.

But M Roland Dumas, the French Minister for European Affairs and a close friend of President Mitterrand, has described the latest proposal as "a new and important development which could constitute an opening and a hope for (a return to) a more normal situation in Chad".

M Dumas, who was sent on several secret missions to Tripoli on behalf of the President before being appointed to his present post in January, revealed in a radio interview on Sunday that Colonel Gaddafi has sent his proposal to M Mitterrand through Dr Bruno Kreisky, the former chancellor of Austria.

"If this proposal is serious, and nothing makes me believe it is not, it should be studied and followed up," M Dumas said, adding that France's position had long been that French troops would "not remain in Chad one minute longer than was necessary".

An opinion poll here last month showed that 58 per cent of those polled want France to withdraw the 3,000 troops it sent into Chad last August in order to stem the Libyan invasion of the north. Ten French soldiers have been killed in Chad since then, though only one in combat.

It has been clear for some time France would dearly love to find a way out of the quagmire in which it has become embedded in Chad.

There are signs that Colonel



Sound and fury: Libyan demonstrators shouting pro-government slogans under the portraits of Colonel Gaddafi at a mass rally in Tripoli.

Gaddafi is also genuinely anxious to find an honourable exit from an involvement which is reported to be highly unpopular among Libyans and no longer apparently desired even by the rebel forces of former President Goukouni Oueddei in the north, whom the Libyans are supposed to be supporting.

Libya is believed to have about 5,000 troops in the north.

though Colonel Gaddafi has always denied any Libyan military presence, speaking only of experts sent to help "the legitimate Government" of Mr Oueddei.

In recent weeks, there has been increasing unrest among the rebels who fear that their Libyan allies may be bent on annexing the north, rather than supporting Mr Oueddei's return to power. There have been

reports of several desertions to the government-controlled south.

● TUNIS: Fifty young Tunisians working in Libya have been expelled by Colonel Gaddafi in the last two days. They said upon their arrival home that the Libyan authorities were in the process of assembling more of the estimated 60,000 Tunisian citizens working in Libya (AFP reports).

Solidarity leaders spurn jail release deal

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The fugitive leaders of the Solidarity underground have urged the 11 imprisoned union chiefs and advisers to reject the Polish Government's offer to set them free under tightly defined conditions. First reports indicate that the 11, Poland's most important political prisoners, have followed the advice of their colleagues in hiding and that talks with intermediaries have been suspended, at least until the Government comes up with a better offer.

According to clandestine bulletins, one of the jailed Solidarity leaders, Mr Seweryn Jaworski, demanded during the talks to consult his former chief, Mr Zbigniew Bujak, now the main underground opponent of the Jaruzelski Government. Mr Bujak replied that the 11 should reject the government's proposals.

In fact, it has become increasingly obvious in the past month of negotiations — con-

ducted not directly with the government, but through the medium of former Solidarity advisers — that the 11 have been trying to push the Government as far as it can go. One of the main Kord dissident advisers in jail, Adam Michnik, has refused to take part in the talks, saying in a smuggled declaration that the Government should either put him on trial immediately or release him without conditions. Since a solution that freed 10 of the 11 Solidarity leaders but left Mr Michnik in jail would be unacceptable, it was clear from an early stage that the talks would not bring an easy success, even after the intervention of the United Nations emissary, Señor Emilio de Olivares. The UN envoy has offered, on behalf of the Polish Government, temporary emigration to the West, but this has been rejected.

The central problem is that of the underground opposition. If the Solidarity leaders are freed, the underground leadership should by rights dissolve itself — because the imprisoned Solidarity men were democratically elected to head the union in 1981. However, if the Solidarity 11 are freed only on condition that they renounce politics or emigrate, the underground will have dissolved itself to no effect and Poland will be left without any substantial organized political opposition.

● Teenage tribute: Hundreds of teenagers yesterday went to the grave of Grzegorz Przemyk, the 19-year-old who died last year after being manhandled by the police. To mark the first anniversary of his death they laid bundles of flowers, swamping the grave, and small tributes of Solidarity. Przemyk, son of the poet and Solidarity supporter Barbara Sadowska, had become a martyr for young sympathizers with the banned union.

Shake-up at the top in Yugoslavia

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade

In order to brace her Government for the hard task of setting Yugoslavia's troubled economy on the long road to recovery, Mr. Milka Planinc, the Prime Minister, has carried out a far-reaching reshuffle.

Parliament has been critical of the inefficiency of the federal Government, and professional competence rather than national parity in its composition has become a necessity.

Of the nine ministers who will be leaving, two — Mr Lazar Mojsov, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Stane Dolanc, the Minister of the Interior — will be joining the new eight-member state presidency, in place of retiring members.

Two senior officials involved in negotiations with Yugoslavia's creditors, Mr Zvonko Dragan and Mr Janko Smole, are leaving the federal Government for health reasons.

Yugoslavia's new Foreign Minister is Mr Rado Džardžević, from Bosnia, who was previously president of Parliament. Mr Dobrosav Culic, from Montenegro, takes over the Interior Ministry.

Earlier this year the Government began a programme of economic reform, by ending the price freeze and committing itself to a liberalized pricing policy. Such bold measures have already been encountering fierce resistance from the bureaucrats.

Mrs Planinc has warned, however, that delays and hesitation would deprive the country of the possibility of resolving the crisis, which calls for radical reforms and profound changes in both the Government and the running of the economy.

Kohl faces defeat over tax amnesty

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

The political uproar over the coalition Government's proposals to grant an amnesty to firms that illegally claimed tax deductions on political donations has now forced the Free Democrats to withdraw their support. Unless the Bill is withdrawn at the last minute, Chancellor Helmut Kohl faces a humiliating defeat in the Bundestag.

Protests against the plan within the FDP reached a crescendo at the weekend, as one regional party association after another denounced the amnesty. Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the party leader, came under fierce attack, and his isolation in support of the Bill made his future survival as leader increasingly dubious.

However, after a tense meeting of the party executive on Sunday evening, support for the amnesty finally crumbled. Herr Genscher is expected to seek an urgent meeting with the Chancellor to tell him the FDP can no longer support its coalition partners on this issue.

Herr Kohl resolutely defended the amnesty against doubters in his own party at the Christian Democratic congress last week and again insisted at the weekend that he was sticking by the bill. But government sources yesterday indicated a retreat in face of the public onslaught. They said Herr Kohl was not prepared to put his coalition at risk, and the Bill would be withdrawn if a parliamentary defeat became likely.

The affair has caused outrage in many quarters, especially among young voters. A recent opinion poll showed that 76 per cent of West Germans are against the amnesty, which would affect more than 1,000 firms, while only 9 per cent support it.

The main accusation is that this is a piece of cynical self-interest by politicians to protect their friends in big companies who had threatened to cut off donations if they were dragged through the courts. The opposition Social Democrats and the Greens have said the Bill was a shameful flouting of the rule of law, and even government supporters have questioned the dubious precedent it sets.



Herr Genscher (left) and Chancellor Kohl

In its latest edition, the news magazine *Der Spiegel* named 23 politicians who would benefit from an amnesty. However, Count Otto Lambdorff, the Economics Minister accused of corruption in accepting payments for his FDP party from the Flick concern, would not benefit from the Bill. Sources in the Bonn public prosecutor's office say he is due to be sent for trial some time next month, with other ministers named in the affair.

The affair will damage Herr Kohl. He is said to have known the plan — which the Social Democrats also wanted to introduce — would cause criticism, but calculated that a brief squall was preferable to the damaging publicity that trials lasting several years and involving senior politicians as witnesses would have caused.

The apparent collapse of his amnesty has also led to renewed tension between the Christian Social Union, whose leader Herr Franz Josef Strauss stands four square behind the Bill, and the FDP, which Herr Strauss is now accusing of unreliability as a coalition partner.

Perhaps the greatest damage, however, is to the vulnerable figure of Herr Genscher. His party has never really settled down after the split caused by his switch in allegiance from the Social Democrats to the Christian Democrats, and latent resentment against his leadership has seized on this issue to raise the question of whether he should continue as chairman.

The SPD has announced it intends to fight the Bill in the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe before the proposed first reading in Parliament on May 24.

Tenders for civilian contractors

In the procurement of equipment and services, the Statement on the Defence Estimates says, efforts are being made to obtain better value for money through the introduction of increased competition, notably through placing contracts by competitive tender rather than through negotiation, and by introducing the use of civilian contractors where possible.

"An analysis of some recent contracts showed an average saving of over 30 per cent following the introduction of competition... We are sure that increased use of competition more generally will lead to lower costs, tighter timetables and sound products."

Competition will also be pursued in the areas of support, supply and maintenance

services. Although the Royal Dockyards will continue to play a vital role in warship refit activity, in the interests of extending competition discussions have been initiated with firms which might be interested in bidding for work for refitting warships.

As a first step two ships, probably a frigate and a submarine, are to be offered for refit by contract after competitive tender, the work to begin later this year.

A Royal Air Force warehouse and a depot are to be managed by contractors from this autumn.

It was decided last year that "major servicing and refurbishment" of Canberra and Hunter aircraft should be transferred to industry.

"We have decided that deep servicing of Nimrods is to be opened to competition and action is now in hand to open up to competition the major servicing of Hawk aircraft."

It is intended to contract out more than 30 per cent of army equipment repair. In the Royal Navy the cost-effectiveness of contracting out six sample support activities will be tested.

The White Paper says: "Generally, we shall seek to apply the principle that the only work carried out within our own defence support organization should be that which is essential for clearly proven operational reasons or where there is financial advantage for the taxpayer."

Afghan gasmask request backs reports of Soviet use of chemical weapons

By Edward Mortimer

Afghan resistance fighters in the Panjshir valley have for the first time put gas-masks at the top of their list of required supplies, ahead of ammunition and money. This lends extra credibility to recent reports that chemical weapons have been used by Soviet forces during their current offensive in the valley, north of the village of Buzark.

A translation of a letter from

Ahmad Shah Massoud, the resistance commander in the valley, reached London on Thursday. It was apparently written last Saturday or Sunday. The letter speaks of heavy fighting in the Andarab valley, north of the Panjshir, in which it is claimed 140 Russians were killed but also (an unusual admission) 200 Afghan mujahidin — apparently a group from outside the valley which did not know the terrain and was caught in the open.

A further 200 Soviet troops were killed, the letter claims, in fighting around Dara, in the north of the Panjshir, where they had been landed by helicopter. About 900 Soviet and Afghan troops are said to be surrounded at the top of the valley. Other large Soviet forces were attacked between Andarab and the strategic pass of Salang, which links Kabul to the Soviet frontier, where the Resistance claims to have captured many Soviet weapons.

Namibia future still in the balance

Pretoria profits from party squabbles

From Michael Horansby
Johannesburg

There is still a chance that talks on the future of Namibia could be resumed despite the apparent breakdown of the conference in Lusaka, which brought South Africa and Swapo face to face for the first time in three years.

President Kaunda of Zambia, who has played an important mediating role in the peace initiatives in southern Africa and who co-chaired the conference with Dr Willie van Niekerk, South Africa's Administrator-General in Namibia, said "the doors of contact" had been opened and must be kept open.

An authoritative South African assessment of the outcome is still awaited, and not expected until after Dr Van Niekerk has reported back to

the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, in Cape Town. The South Africans said from the outset that they would have been happy to settle for an agreement to hold another meeting.

In the event, even that modest objective was not explicitly achieved, though some Western diplomats are convinced another conference will be held. Hard words were spoken in the closing stages, but the level of recrimination at the end was fairly muted, and no one went away proclaiming the conference a waste of time.

It was perhaps significant that, for once, South Africa was not singled out as the wrecker. The main recriminations were traded between the two Namibian groups, the Swapo delegation led by Mr Sam Nujoma and the Multi-Party Confer-

ence, the alliance of internal political parties.

Mr Dirk Mudge, the white leader of the multi-ethnic Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, one of the main parties in the internal grouping, cited Swapo's refusal to sign the final document as the chief reason for the breakdown.

The Swapo spokesman, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, however, claimed that differences between the internal parties had been the main obstacle, and other sources also indicated these had been a vital factor, preventing the emergence of something like a common front among all the main Namibian groups, which could have put South Africa in an embarrassing position.

To the extent that the issue has been broadened into a debate between the different groups themselves, as opposed

Craxi reelected to acclaim

From John Eassey
Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, was reelected Secretary-General of the Socialist Party by acclamation yesterday at the end of the party's four-day congress in Verona.

Signor Craxi, whose party obtained 11.4 per cent of the votes at the last general election, heads a coalition composed of Christian Democrats, Republicans, social Democrats and Liberals as well as his Socialists.

Harmony again as woman clarinetist bows out

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

Fran Sabine Meyer, the 24-year-old clarinetist whose engagement with the renowned Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra last year was the cause of a bitter dispute between the players and Herbert von Karajan, the chief conductor, has been forced to resign after her trial year because of continued arguments over her contract.

She told her colleagues in a letter published on Sunday that her continued membership of the orchestra could lead to unforeseen tensions. Herr von Karajan had insisted on engaging her, although the players complained this violated their long-standing rights to have the final say over new members.

The orchestra was due to vote later this summer on whether to keep her on as the second woman player in over a century of the orchestra's existence. Fran Meyer, however, suggested she was not prepared to become a political football and was weary of the row, which has already forced Dr Peter Gritz, the Philharmonic's director who also supported her, to leave when his contract expires next year.

The orchestra members in a blunt letter told Fran Meyer, who has made a name for herself as a soloist, that it would be hard for them to decide on her continued presence purely on artistic grounds. They said they accepted her decision with "respect and recognition", and regretted that her engagement had been in such unhappy circumstances. They would be



Sabine Meyer: Too much pressure

happy to play with her again as a guest artist.

The row, which damaged the orchestra's reputation and led to angry outbursts from Herr von Karajan, was taken by a number of feminist groups as symbolic of the difficulties women have in overcoming prejudice in public as well as cultural life in West Germany.

Backlash in Punjab checked by curfew

From Michael Hasnaly, Delhi

The strife-torn state of Punjab held its breath yesterday while all sides waited for a Hindu backlash that could set off the intercommunal struggle that many people have feared would result from the Sikh agitation and terrorist campaign.

A statewide *Bandh* or general strike was called in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh by Hindu organizations led by the newly formed Hindu Rashtriya Suruksha Sena, the national security force. A similar strike was also called in Jammu, the Hindu portion of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The authorities responded by clamping down curfews on all the main towns of Punjab — Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana and Patiala — where all kept indoors. Other places where

trouble also threatened were also placed under curfew.

The *Bandh* was called to protest at the murder of the newspaper editor, Mr Ramesh Chander, in Jullundur at the weekend. By early yesterday evening the state remained more or less peaceful, however.

Widespread disapproval of the killing of Mr Chander has been expressed in India, principally by journalists' organizations but also by political parties. The President, Giani Zail Singh, himself a Sikh, issued a statement condemning the murder.

Kohl faces
defeat
over tax
amnesty

From Michael Meyer
Bonn

The German government's proposal to grant tax amnesty to foreign investors has been rejected by the Bundestag. The decision was a surprise, as the government had expected a more favorable outcome. The rejection was based on concerns over the potential for tax evasion and the impact on the domestic economy. The government is expected to revise the proposal and reintroduce it in the near future.



at
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ia

Health Club
Hotel Bedroom
Client's Factory
Airport Lounge
Tennis Club
Film Set
Home
Shop
Farm
Studio
Next Door
...etc.

An office is where people work.

It can be light and pleasant, dark and stuffy, high-up in the air or hidden in the basement.

It can be long and thin, or large and square.

In the centre of town, or in the outskirts.

Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

But whatever it can be, 'the office' is still one particular room in one particular building; four walls, a window and a desk, basically.

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ed by curfew

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Sari Squad tackles European racism

By Pat Healy
Race Relations Correspondent

Fifty Asian women will leave Britain tomorrow on what promises to be a noisy tour of European capitals. Several governments will be made to feel distinctly uncomfortable about their immigration and nationality laws.

The women are members of the Sari Squad, a title chosen to indicate the rising militancy of Asian women in Britain who are no longer prepared to acquiesce in rules that split their families or deport them.

Their focus is the case of Afia Begum, the young Bangladeshi widow who was deported with her daughter last week after hiding from immigration authorities for nearly 15 months. They say that her case is typical of hundreds of thousands throughout Europe, where the Sari Squad sees a rising tide of racism leading to more discriminatory immigration laws.

Miss Paromgit Hayers, aged 22, who has a social science degree but is unemployed, said: "It is more on the surface on the continent than it is here. They are rounding up immigrant kids in France."

Afia Begum had her entry clearance to Britain withdrawn after her husband died in a fire shortly before she was due to join him in Brick Lane, east London, where the Sari Squad has set up an Afia Begum centre. They say that immigrant women like her face double discrimination, deprived of rights under immigration laws if they do not have husbands to support them.

In Britain Asian women with a right to stay are being refused the right to have their husbands join them, although British-born women can bring in their foreign husbands.

One attempt has already been made to deal with the automatic deportation that faces many Asian women when they lose husbands through death, separation or divorce. The Commons recently gave leave to a 10-minute rule Bill on the issue, and its introduction was watched by a dozen members of the Sari Squad.

Their European tour, which will take in Paris, Amsterdam, Bonn and Frankfurt will culminate in demonstrations outside the European Parliament in Strasbourg on May 23.



Women of Action: From left, Kaveri Mishra, Putuz Das, Paromgit Hayers (in front with short hair), Begum Rehza.

BMW car works to shut down as German strike bites

From Michael Blayton, Bonn

Striking workers in the West German engineering industry won their first victory yesterday when the important BMW car works in Munich announced that production would come to a standstill on Thursday because of a lack of vital components.

The announcement came only a few hours after 13,000 men began strikes in key component factories in the Stuttgart area to enforce their union's demand for a 35-hour week. BMW announced that its assembly lines would be affected first, but lay-offs would then spread as stocks ran down.

One of the tactics of IG Metall, the giant metalworkers' union, is to hit at component factories first in an attempt to cripple the important car industry. Spokesmen for other firms - such as Daimler-Benz, the makers of Mercedes, and Porsche - said they would be severely affected within a few days. Importing components from abroad would not be practicable.

Pickets stood in driving rain

outside the factories on strike from the early morning. Among them was Herr Hans Mayr, the leader of the metalworkers' union, who refused to speculate how long the strike would last. But he said his union was prepared for a long fight.

However, he called again on the employers to sit down at the negotiating table, adding that strike damage could be limited if they made an acceptable offer. He refused to call off the strike action during any renewed talks.

In Hesse, workers in the Frankfurt area are getting ready to begin a strike tomorrow. The Opel car works are in this area, as well as other engineering firms.

A spokesman for the engineering employers described the strikes yesterday as "brutal, cynical and infamous," and said they had never experienced such cynically calculated industrial action.

He added that 680,000 workers in the car industry would be affected, with a further 900,000 in related

industries. More than 1,500,000 workers would have no work without pay or state aid for those on short-time working.

The union wants the employers to begin regional talks on possible compromises, hoping thus to crack the tough front they have put up against any shortening of the present 40-hour week without any cut in pay. The employers insist, however, on national negotiations. IG Metall has refused to call for political arbitration, saying it is up to the employers to settle the conflict.

The strikes are the first serious incidence of industrial trouble since 1978. Some observers are already predicting the embittered conflict could last for several months.

West Germany lies well down in the table of strikes in industrialized nations, and the present conflict is being taken that much more seriously by the Government, especially as other unions are also preparing industrial action over the same issue.

Arrest of rabbi stuns settlers

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The arrest of Rabbi Moshe Levinger, figurehead of the Jewish settlement movement and founder of the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim (Block of the Faithful), has sent shock waves through the occupied West Bank, where he is revered as a spiritual leader by thousands of religious Jews.

It was disclosed that the rabbi's detention on Sunday, in connection with the investigation into Jewish extremists in the West Bank, was sanctioned personally by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, an advocate of increased settlement in all parts of the West Bank, an area he terms "Eretz Israel" (the biblical land of Israel).

Israel radio said the rabbi, who founded Kiryat Arba, one of the largest West Bank settlements, and is in the

Beirut school hit by shell

A 61mm mortar shell landed in the crowded playground of a Greek Orthodox school in east Beirut yesterday, killing a 12-year-old boy and wounding 21 of his schoolmates. Officials at St George's Hospital, where the wounded were taken, appealed by radio for blood donations.

vanguard of the drive to bring Jews back to live in the heart of the Arab city of Hebron, is suspected of knowing in advance plans for attacks against Palestinians and also of possibly supplying "spiritual motivation" for them.

According to Israeli law, Rabbi Levinger - who lives under heavy army guard in the centre of Hebron with his Brooklyn-born wife, Miriam - could face the maximum prison sentence of 20 years. But by last night, there was no official confirmation that he will be charged at all, despite claims in one newspaper that he has already signed a confession.

The bespectacled rabbi is the most prominent figure among the estimated two dozen Jews being interrogated about the operation of a network responsible, among other attacks, for the maiming of two Arab mayors in 1980 and last year's gun-and-grenade ambush which killed four students at Hebron's Islamic college. One of those detained in the initial round-up was a son-in-law of the rabbi.

Information leaked from the inquiry described the underground as being established by militant settlers in 1979 in reaction to the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. One of the unrealized plans of its tight-knit group - including a number of army officers - was the blowing up of the main Muslim shrines on Jerusalem's holy Temple Mount.

Top Nazi Walter Rauff dies in Chile

Santiago (AP and Reuters) - Walter Rauff, a former Nazi SS colonel accused of killing tens of thousands of Jews during the Second World War, died on Monday of an apparent heart attack, Chile's official radio reported.

Rauff, who had long been ill with lung cancer, died at his home in the wealthy suburb of Las Condes. He was 77.

Rauff's extradition to stand trial for war crimes in West Germany was rejected 1963 and requests from West Germany and Israel this year that he be expelled were also refused.

The Nazi hunters, Simon Wiesenthal and Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, continued to press for Rauff to stand trial saying that he was one of the three most wanted Nazi war criminals still at large.

The West Germans and Israelis accused Rauff of sending at least 97,000 East European Jews to their deaths in mobile gas lorries which he designed.

80 injured in Athens blast

Athens (Reuters) - About 80 people were injured when an explosion ripped through a fast food shop in a nine-storey building in central Athens. Eight of the injured were in serious condition and at least 28 others were also being held in hospital.

The blast is believed to have been caused by a gas bottle exploding. Most of the injured were waiting at a bus stop outside the building.

Moonies leader denied appeal

Washington (Reuters) - The Supreme Court has refused to review the tax fraud conviction of the Rev Sun Myung Moon, founder and leader of the Worldwide Unification Church, known as the Moonies, clearing the way for his imprisonment. He was convicted in 1982 of tax fraud, obstruction of justice and false statement charges and was sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined \$25,000. He has been free pending the outcome of his appeal.

End of an era

Nairobi (AFP) - Presidents Nyerere of Tanzania, Moi of Kenya and Obote of Uganda officially endorsed yesterday the end of the East African Community which collapsed in 1977. The three leaders also abrogated the East African Treaty which was signed in 1967 forming the community.

Paper closes

Hongkong (AFP) - The Star, Hongkong's only daily newspaper published in separate English and Chinese versions, has closed with 110 journalists laid off. No reason for the closure of the 19-year-old paper were given.

Another first

Ottawa - Mrs Jeanne Sauvé, who just over four years ago became the first female Speaker of Canada's House of Commons, yesterday was installed as the country's first woman Governor-General. She succeeds Mr Edward Schreyer.

Show of force

Tokyo (AFP) - About 80 warships 250 planes and more than 50,000 personnel from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States will participate in Pacific manoeuvres. The exercise, called Rimpac 84, will be staged between San Diego and Hawaii. It ends on June 29.

Gulf ship attack

Bahrain (Reuters) - A Kuwaiti tanker was damaged in an air attack in the Gulf, the fourth vessel to be hit in the past two days, the Kuwait news agency reported. The ship, the Bahra, was attacked by an unidentified plane and two crew members were hurt. It was not carrying any crude oil.

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denied appeal

End of an era

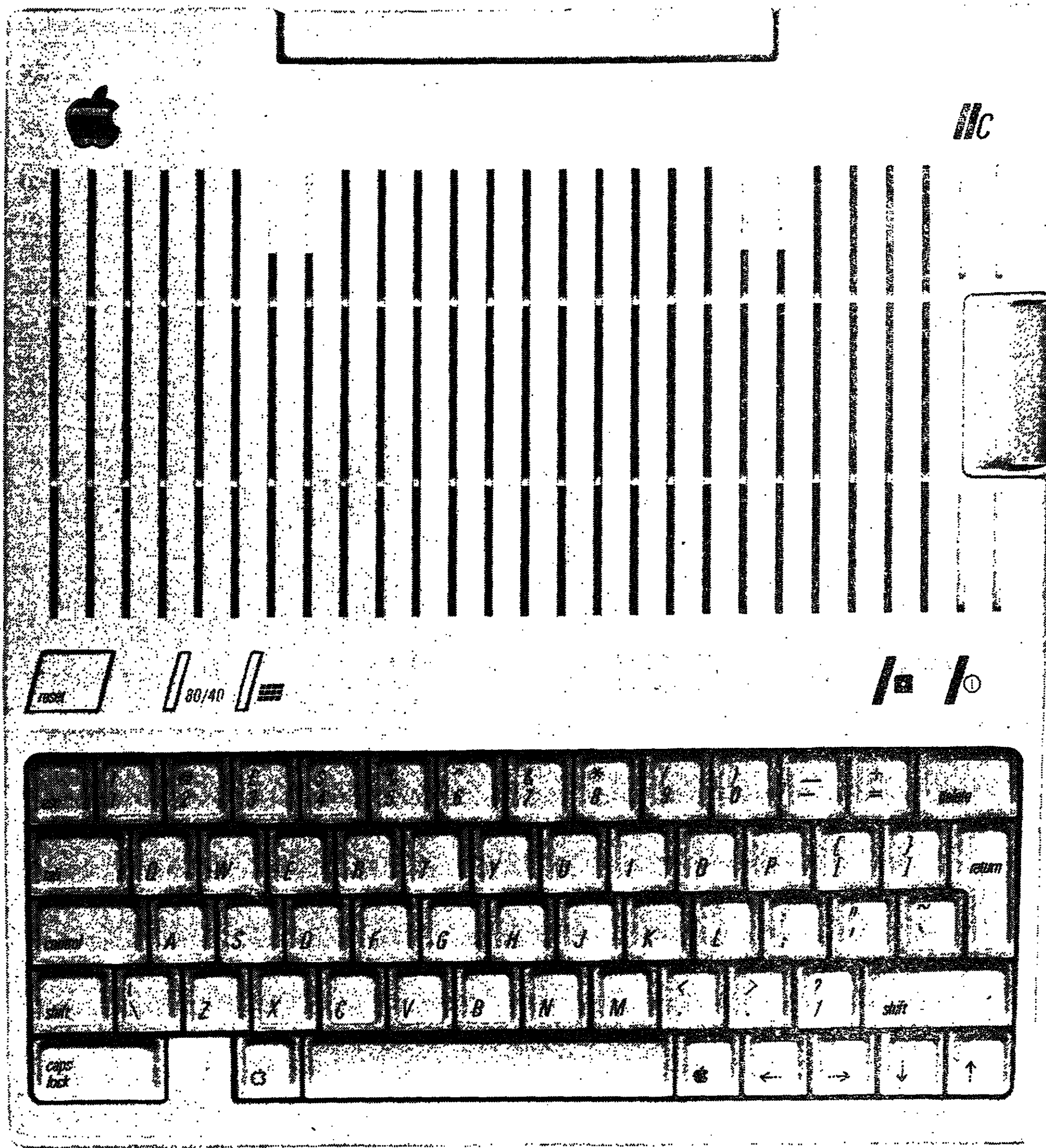
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Healing America's deepest scar at the wall of loss

From Trevor Fishlock
Washington

Even by night people come to the Vietnam Memorial. It is a place of extraordinary and poignant pilgrimage, a place like no other in America.

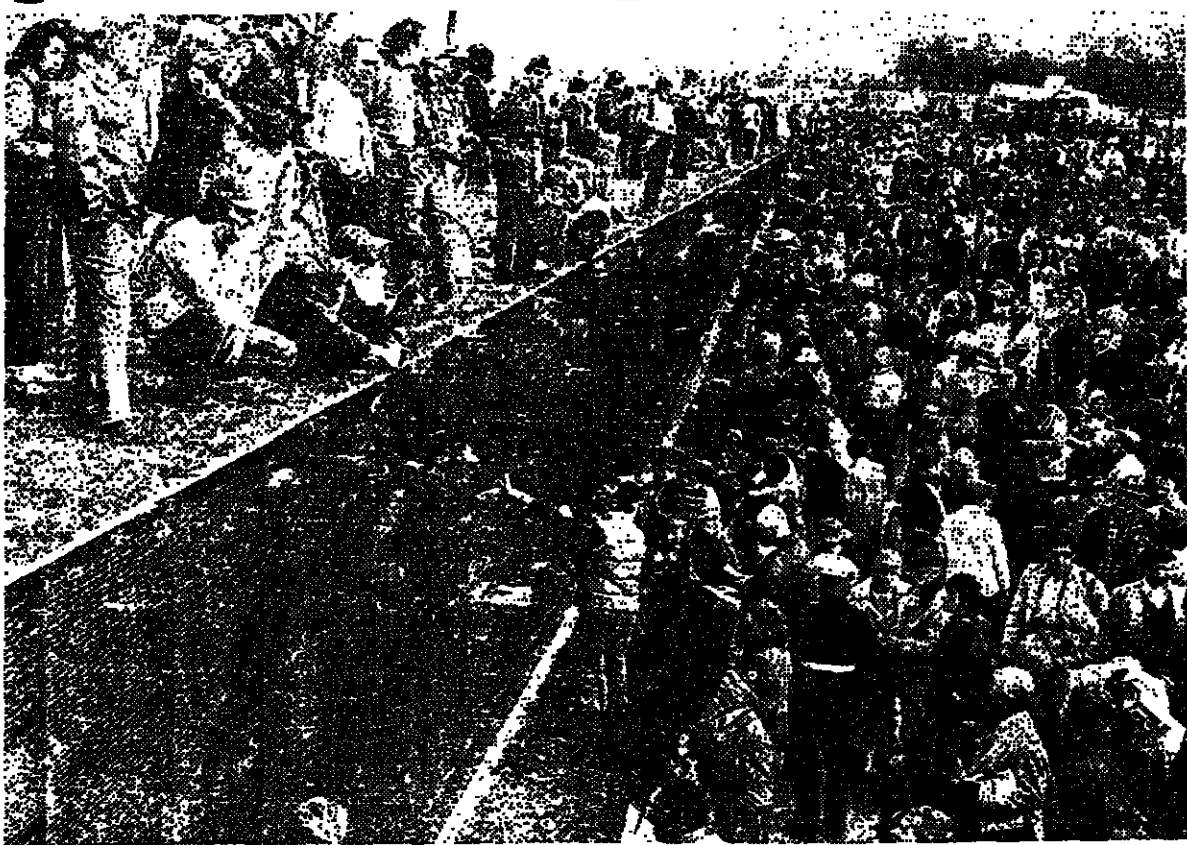
Thousands come every day to contemplate a wall of black slabs bearing the names of 58,000 dead, the granite so polished that the people see their own reflections through the lists of dead sons. Some tape letters to the stone, or place flowers between the panels, or run their fingers gently over the carved names, in the manner of the sightless touching a face.

It may be that the wall plays a part in the slow forming of scar tissue over the Vietnam wound, the most divisive and tormenting of modern American experiences. Almost nine years have passed since Saigon fell and the last Americans were evacuated, the final act in the defeat of a great power's army by a force of peasants.

It was years before Americans could begin to come to terms with the emotional and political watershed of the war. For a long time it seemed almost too raw an injury to examine, for part of it included deep pools of shame and resentment, as well as grief.

Not least in the welter of hurts and anger were the feelings of those who survived. They participated, often reluctantly in a war millions of their countrymen either opposed or did not care about.

Their own self-respect was often replaced by self-loathing. They returned to find themselves un-heroes, frequently despised. Many thousands are still being treated for the mental



Veterans' day: Hundreds of Vietnam veterans and their relatives finding solace. Right, sculptor Frederick Hart working on the statues soon to be added.



breakdown that war and its guilty aftermath induced.

In the same way that European writers and poets spent years trying to confront and explain the waste of the First World War, Americans have started exploring what once seemed too tender and unapproachable. Films have been set against the background of the war, a long Vietnam

series has just been shown on television, and a popular history of the war just published, is selling well.

It was inevitable that a Vietnam memorial should stir strong feelings among those who wanted recognition of sacrifice, and those who wanted no reminder of what they held to be an ignoble cause.

The design competition was

won by a woman of 21, Naya Ying Lin. She designed a striking and original memorial, a wall 247ft long, bearing the names of the dead, in the order of their deaths.

Close by the memorial, in the heart of Washington, is a tiny encampment, a permanent "vigil of honour" as it is called, mounted by veterans as a reminder that 2,490 Americans

remain unaccounted for after the Vietnam war. They believe some of the men may still be captives. That uncertainty amid the shroud of hope this vigil represents, is one of the war's

sadder remnants.

The sombre starkness of the memorial was always felt by many veterans to be too severe. There were always those who

believed such thing would glorify what they thought was not glorious, and who thought the memorial's restrained dignity needed no embellishment.

Nevertheless, a statue is being made and it will be added to the site this year. It depicts three soldiers, one of them black, and it will be reflected in the long dark wall of loss.

Neighbours fear the tiger with more teeth than bite

In the second of three articles on Vietnam, David Watts, South-East Asia correspondent, assesses Hanoi's military strength and its impact on the region.

Of the 15 MiGs lined up in their blast pens at Noi Bai airport, Hanoi, only a handful are new models. They can be picked out with the blue-grey camouflage and the four launching rails for their Atoll air-to-air missiles. Like much of the equipment of Vietnam's armed forces they are scarcely the latest in weaponry.

But the number of men under arms - a standing army of 1,200,000 with a militia of about 1,500,000 - makes Vietnam a regional military superpower in comparison with the non-communist countries of South-East Asia.

Those countries are preparing for the day when, they believe, Hanoi will start to march on from Cambodia into the rest of South-East Asia. At least that is the view as seen from the majority of the southern-rim countries of South-East Asia. Forty-five thousand troops in Laos and about 150,000 in Cambodia seem to underscore the image, and given reports of modern MiG 23s being added to the Vietnamese Air Force, there are the makings of an arms race.

On the strength of those MiG 23s Thailand has just persuaded the United States that it must have F16 fighters; Singapore has ordered the export version of the F16 to be used in conjunction with Hawkeye early warning and control aircraft; Malaysia is considering new generation fighters; and Indonesia could well follow suit.

So far there is no evidence that Vietnam has received MiG 23s though it is just possible that some crews have been trained. At Da Nang, where Soviet technicians help assemble and test aircraft newly-delivered from Soviet Union, there have been no sightings of the new MiGs though about 60 of the older MiG 21s are operational.

On the day, earlier this year, when US authorities in Bangkok announced that the naval base at Cam Ranh Bay regularly had 20 Soviet ships at anchor, a Western diplomat based in Hanoi took a picnic overlooking the bay. The grand

VIETNAM
NOW
Part 2

total of Soviet vessels present was two cargo ships and what may have been a submarine, which was difficult to identify with certainty because of the angle.

"It's a classic example of the arms race," the diplomat said. "I wouldn't deny the Soviet role in Vietnam for one moment but I would hope that we could be a bit more objective about it. It's dangerous to assume that there is more going on than there actually is."

It was not for nothing that General Benny Murdan, commander of the Indonesian armed forces, said in Hanoi that he did not think Vietnam was a military threat to South-East Asia.

For all the might of its land forces, Vietnam has neither the equipment nor the financial resources to carry out offensive operations against the countries of South-East Asia. It has no force of landing craft worth the name and does not seem to think in terms of offensive strategic air power. In Cambodia the only sizable "bomber" that has been used is the Antonov AN26 transport.

Bombs are rolled from its rear cargo-doors in an extremely haphazard manner. "Actually we protect South-East Asia from the Chinese. We are a buffer zone between China and South-East Asia", said Mr Hoang Tung of the secretariat of the Communist Party of Vietnam. "If we hadn't pushed Chinese influence out of Cambodia what would have happened by now? We certainly feel no threat from South-East Asia."

As an earnest of their good will the Vietnamese say the recent fighting on the frontier of Cambodia and Thailand, particularly at Amphil camp, was restrained not because of their inability to pursue the fight to a conclusion but as a mark of goodwill to the South-East Asian countries and, at the same time, as an indication to China that the Vietnamese tiger has not lost its will to fight.

Tomorrow: Friends and foes

Prisoners of conscience

USSR
Vladimir
Khailo

By Caroline Moorehead

Vladimir Khailo, aged 51, is a former member of the fire brigade at Krasny Luch in the Ukrainian republic and the father of 15 children. Since September, 1980 he has been forcibly confined to a special psychiatric hospital, the most severe type of psychiatric institution in the Soviet Union for those "who represent a special danger to society". A dissenting Baptist, he belongs to a congregation which refuses to accept stringent state restrictions on religious practice. In 1974 and 1977 he applied for permission to emigrate.

His congregation broke away from the official Baptist Church after the parent body adopted statutes in 1960 providing for secular registration, control over sermons and the appointment of clergy, and a strongly centralized administration. About 2,000 of



Khailo: Dissenting Baptist these congregations, throughout the Soviet Union have refused registration and are now considered illegal.

After Mr Khailo and his wife, Maria, began to conduct religious services in the homes of fellow believers, the family became the target of official harassment. In 1977 their children stopped attending school for fear of victimization.

The exact charge against Mr Khailo has never been made public. He has been diagnosed as schizophrenic and ruled not responsible for his actions. Like other prisoners of conscience indefinitely confined to psychiatric hospitals, he has been treated with anti-psychotic drugs which have severe side-effects. His wife, who on a visit to her husband in 1981 failed to recognize him, says that he is now in poor health, with fainting fits, heart-pains and impaired vision.



Spanish sailor dies in attack on Navy launch

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

A powerful explosive device placed below the waterline blew up a small patrol launch belonging to the Spanish Navy at Fuencarral, a port in the Basque country, before dawn yesterday, killing one of the two sailors who were guarding it.

ETA, which is known to have members specially trained for such underwater attacks, was suspected by the police. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, immediately announced he would fly with senior naval officers from here to attend the funeral of the 20-year-old victim, who was doing National Service. The other sailor escaped from the blast and swam ashore.

The launch, which sank within seconds, was used by the Navy to monitor local Basque fishing fleets, which have recently been in trouble with the French.

Party congress a triumph for Papandreou

From Mario Modiano
Athens

The party congress of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) wound up in Athens in the early hours of yesterday with the confirmation by acclaim of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister, as party chairman.

This was the first congress in Pasek's 10-year history and the first time that the party's Central Committee was elected, rather than appointed.

The membership of the Central Committee was increased from 80 to 140 at Mr Papandreou's request, while the party's new constitution, which gave it greater powers in shaping Government policy.

The four-day congress was seen as a personal triumph for Mr Papandreou, who won universal approval from the party's 3.4 million members for his tactical decision to open the door to socialism for the sake of national interest.



Whoever called them the good old days?

In the bad old days working conditions in London were nothing to be proud of.

Nowadays most people recognise that the quality of the working environment does matter. It can make the difference between success and failure for the shopfloor, management and the enterprise as a whole. At the Greater London Enterprise Board we make it a critical issue when investing time and money in any enterprise.

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expertise and legal guidance. And our approach to industrial relations is progressive, practical and productive.

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Every month 1,000 companies go bust. You can't always blame the economy.

According to a recent report in a financial newspaper, companies go to the wall for all manner of reasons.

In many cases the economy has little to do with it.

Those popular whipping boys, the Government and the unions, don't even get a mention. Nor should we automatically point the finger at the EEC or the microchip.

For the most part, the bald truth is that when companies get into trouble they have only themselves to blame.

Mismanagement of stocks. Lack of capital. Setting up in the wrong location. Lack of trust and communication between managements and their accountants. Too rapid and under-researched expansion. Old-fashioned production techniques. And so on.

The same blunders crop up time and again.

How do level-headed, hard-working businessmen get themselves into such a jam?

HOW MISTAKES ARE MADE

In our experience, it's not just that managements make the wrong decisions.

Increasingly they are making decisions too late.

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What this calls for, we believe, is nothing less than a root and branch reorganisation of working procedures.

And a lot of companies agree with us.

Over 200 of them in Britain are already using Hewlett-Packard office systems to improve their productivity.

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It's a way of making available at a moment's notice every scrap of information you need to make decisions.

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We'll provide you with the means to create, revise, store, print, retrieve and distribute letters, reports, mailing lists, graphs and charts without moving from a desk or lifting a telephone.

And this refers to material stored not just ten floors below but written five minutes ago in an office on the other side of the world.

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First you have to decide what needs to be done.

And that depends on your type of business, the number of people you employ and how many computers you have already.

(Incidentally, Hewlett-Packard computers are compatible with other makes of computer, so we can usually incorporate those you are currently using into our system.)

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We'll then invite you to our international headquarters in Berkshire to discuss specific applications and see all our products in action.

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(Not the case with all our competitors. They don't always practise what they preach.)

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Party congress
a triumph
for Papandreou

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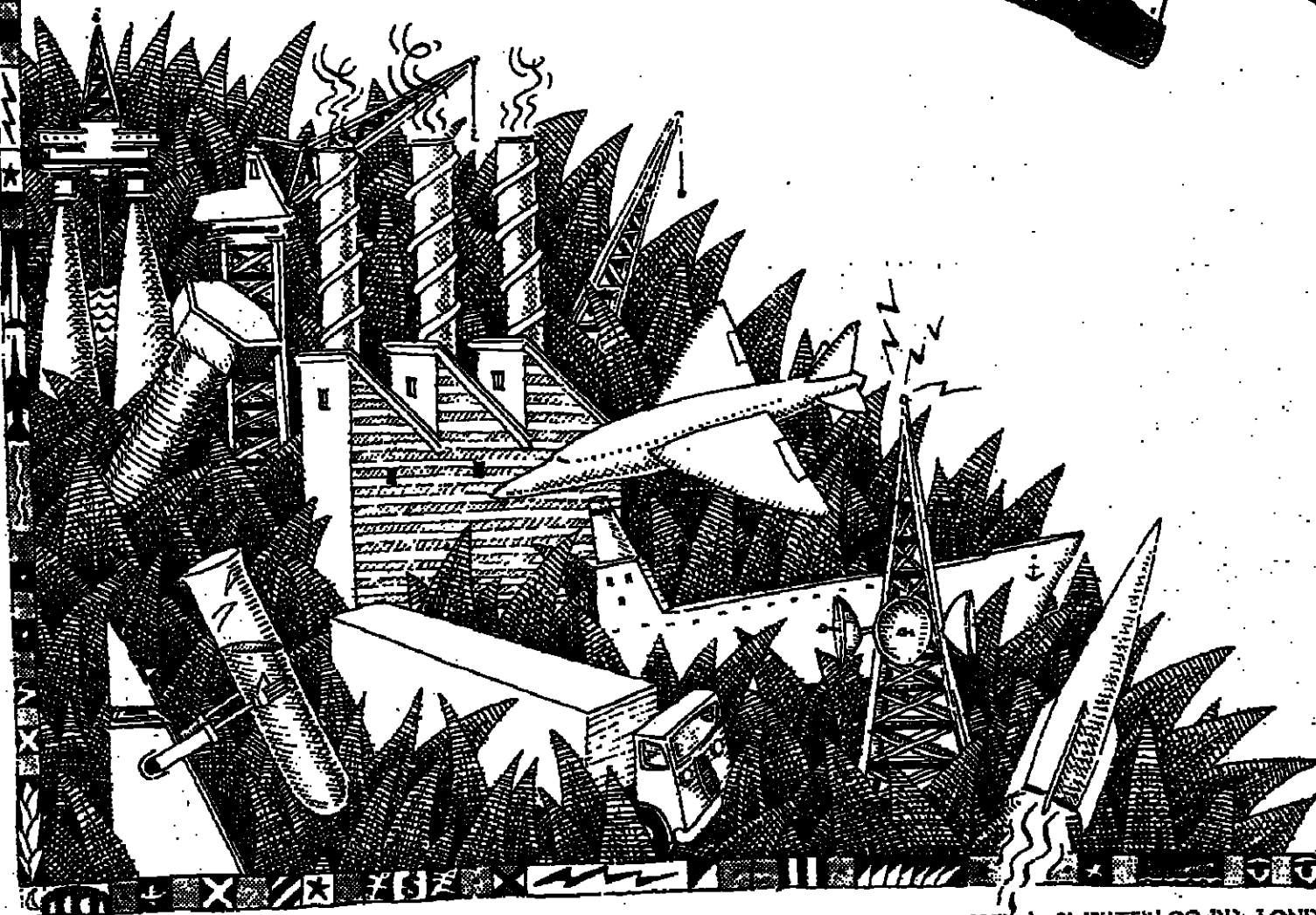
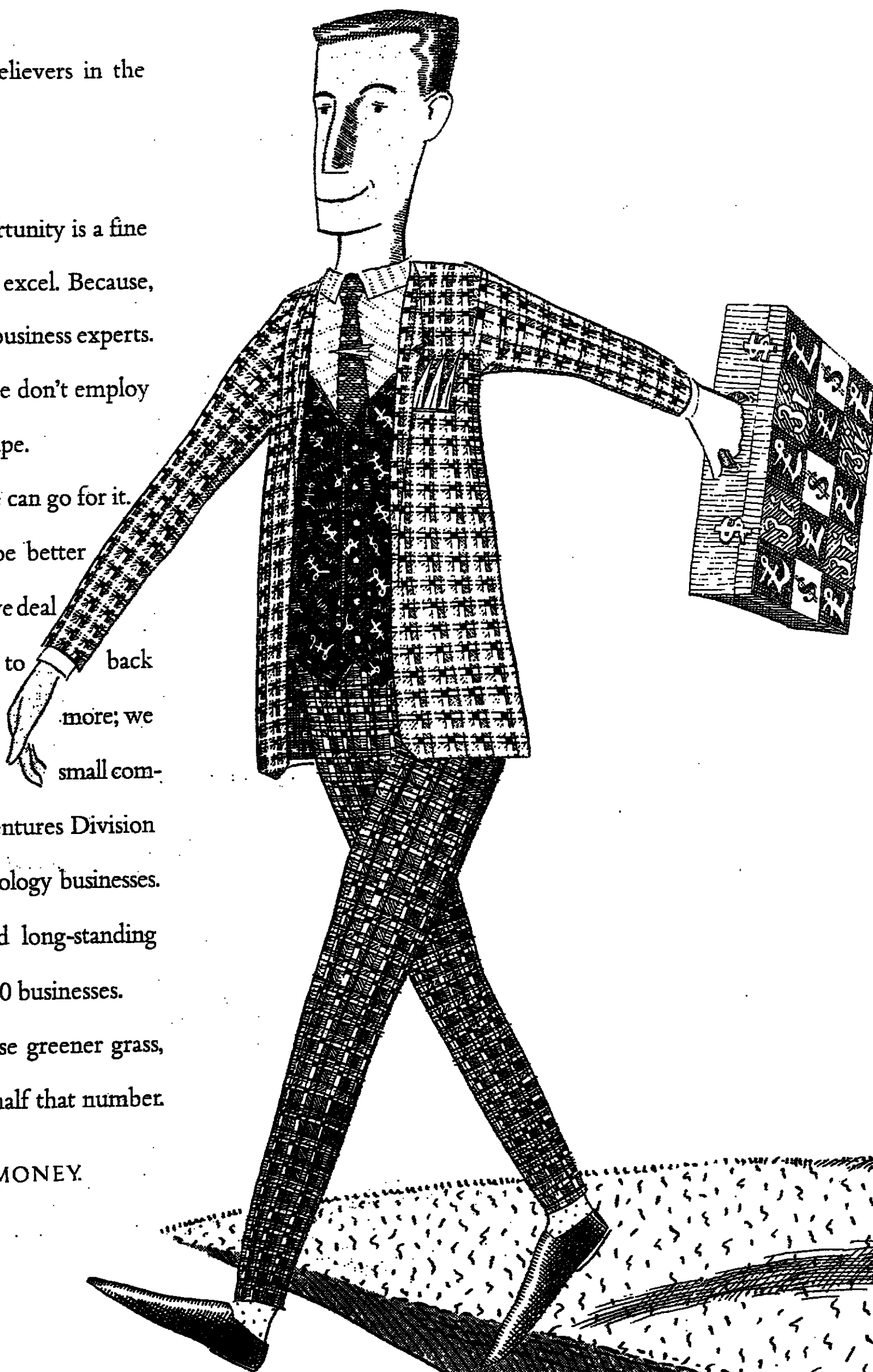
who specialise in high-technology businesses.



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If we hadn't been able to recognise greener grass, we wouldn't have been able to back half that number.

THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY.



SPECTRUM

Six years ago Watford Football Club was floundering in obscurity in the fourth division. Since then, the team has climbed a fairy tale ladder of success to this Saturday's FA Cup final

Watford's winning wizard

Watford for the FA Cup is on a par with a Rutland lunar exploration programme of Liechtenstein planning to conquer the Soviet Union. But they have made it, for the first time in their history. Their clash against Everton at Wembley on Saturday is the crowning achievement of their chairman, Elton John, and more especially of manager Graham Taylor, who brought the club from the fourth division in the first in five seasons.

It would make an inspiring story for *Tiger*: the pop star with more money than sense determined to take the team he supported as a lad to glory. He hires a young and basically untested manager at the crumbling ground and says something like: "Take me to the stars." The manager replies: "You're crazy, boss, but I like your style."

"I don't want to discount all the efforts of so many people," Taylor says. "But the way Elton John and I clicked was the spark that ignited Watford."

However happy the ending might be, it has not been an easy ride. Taylor stands out among the usual run of football managers not only because of his achievements — at one stage last season Watford topped the first division, and finished second in Liverpool — but, because he is intelligent, articulate, honest and a fundamentally decent man. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, he has attracted a huge volume of hate from sports writers and many wise old soccer heads who should know better, and more importantly, finished second in the table behind Liverpool.

Early in the season just ending, when Watford fell to

near bottom of the first division and faced the spectre of relegation, they declared with much satisfaction that Watford had been found out: it was all just a flash in the pan. Like other fast-rising clubs before them they would soon be back in the cellar from which they should never have emerged.

But Watford revived. Astute dealings in the transfer market, Taylor's even greater dedication and a simple turn-round in luck and they were clambering up the table. Comfort and safety were soon reached. So was Wembley.

Watford have long had a way of breaking the rules and getting away with it. It was a bit of rule-breaking that took Taylor in Watford in the first place.

Taylor had proved an able manager of Lincoln. Elton John went the orthodox route and asked Lincoln's chairman if Taylor was interested in a move. Taylor sent back the message: thanks but no thanks.

Elton John then did something for a football chairman, highly unorthodox: he telephoned Taylor personally, not to try to persuade him to change his mind but simply to express his regret and wish him luck for the future. "That phone call was against the system," says Taylor. "Chairmen just don't treat managers like that. I was intrigued."

A month later, Watford still had no manager. Elton John again contacted his chairman, and he, being a decent man, passed on the message. This time I thought, because of that phone call, and the way he had conducted himself — well, I'd like to meet him.



'I've seen the big clubs, ones you dream about as a kid, and they're not as big as you'd thought'

"We met. I asked him his ambitions for Watford? He replied: 'I want to get into Europe. Do well in the first division.'"

"Do you know how much that would cost?" Taylor asked. "I haven't the slightest idea," Elton John replied.

In the event, it cost £1.2m, an interest free unsecured loan from the chairman. But the idea that Watford had succeeded by buying up good players, a hot air balloon kept aloft by the chairman's lolly, is unfounded. Two thirds of that sum went on badly needed ground improvements and safety measures. Not that it shows very much. The Vicarage Road ground is still, in the words of chief executive Eddie Plumley, "a corrugated iron graveyard".

In fact, Taylor had just £300,000 to spend on players. He has played the transfer market successfully, receiving

£1m from AC Milan for forward Luther Blissett.

All of which shows that Taylor is a smart and successful operator. He has been just as successful in schooling Watford in tactics of long ball, aggressive simplicity. The reasoning can hardly be questioned: the more times you get the ball in the opposition penalty area the more goals you are likely to score. But the tactical purists throw up their hands in horror.

"I couldn't believe the anger when I was asked to manage the England youth team last year," Taylor said. The idea that England would adopt Watford's tactics — "putting the game back 20 years" — became an obsession.

"I was given that job to do two things," Taylor said. "To teach them to play forward more quickly, and to instil certain standards of discipline — the standards I expect at this club."

"I am not pure and perfect, but I believe in principles." This means standing up for his players, as he stood up for Watford captain Wilf Roper, who will miss the Cup Final after falling foul of a referee.

"I think players are over-criticized. People demand so much of football that the bad points are constantly highlighted. But when you compare the ethics of footballers to those of people in the professions who don't attract the same media attention, then it becomes clear that footballers are really quite saintly."

The vilification of Taylor is beginning to die down now. The footballing establishment, for all its earlier misgivings, is beginning to accept Watford, and Taylor's success, as a fact of life. So much that whenever there is talk of a "major club" with a managerial vacancy, Taylor's name crops up.

But he will not leave Watford. Not for a while, anyway. He has just signed a new six-year contract, a long time by footballing standards. "We thought he was here for life anyway," says John Barnes, one of his bright young lads.

Taylor says: "Some people think I'm unambitious because I haven't tried to go to a big club." Well, I've seen the big clubs, the ones you dream about as a kid, and they're not as big as you'd thought. And they're all not run in a way or by the people I like.

"What I want to do now is to win the first division championship. I'm not saying it's something we shall certainly achieve, but we still certainly give it a go. You want to share success with some one. Here,

every moment of success is something we are achieving for the first time. At a big club, you lose the enjoyment of sharing success."

If you want to annoy Taylor, tell him you think he should move on from his present cosy number to Manchester United or Tottenham Hotspur. "By staying at Watford I am showing myself as being more ambitious, not less. I have chosen to find success the difficult way, by finding success for a small club. I want to be associated with its achievements, not with the record of other managers. That is my job."

When the team faced the threat of relegation before Christmas, Taylor said it would benefit from a brush with disaster. Today, looking back, he says he suffered from "no feeling of nerve, no feelings of unbearable pressure."

"When I took over at Lincoln, they had gone nine matches without a win, and after I took over there was another nine without a win. People were asking what the hell I was doing. I was seen as a puppet appointment. They could have sacked me then, and left me with a mortgage, two kids, and a track record of failure. A boy of 28 who had a go and failed. That's what I call pressure."

"As for the Cup Final, well, that's an experience new to me, and new to the players. They might freeze. On the other hand there are moments, in any profession, when it all gells. Elton John knows this as a musician. I've known it. When the plan works, it's just like heaven."

Simon Barnes

moreover... Miles Kingdon

From byte to verse and back again

The contest for the Oxford Professorship of Poetry is hotting up. After James Fenton and Peter Levi, Gavin Ewart has thrown his hat in the ring and now they have been joined by another surprise entrant — the Moreover Poetry Computer.

The Computer is already in training for the big event — it wrote 5,000 poems over the weekend — but it took time off to answer the big question that everyone's asking: What does the Oxford Professor of Poetry actually do?

The Oxford Professor of Poetry will Attract girls called Tessa And young men called Will. He will find Tessa yummy And William quite slick But her verse will be crummy And his make him sick.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry should Be a father confessor To both bad and good, Should carefully study Their verse, over drinks, And then tell them: Buddy, Your poetry stinks.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry shall Insist upon "Yes, sir" Instead of "Old pal": From greeting him "Hi, there!" They must be deterred — Young poets should neither Be seen nor be heard.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry can Use a brand-new processor To rhyme and to scan, So while it is churning Out scansion and rhyme He can make more discern: Good use of his time.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry is A barmier, fecklesier Ozard of Wiz. A kind of mad Akond Of swots after Hall, Or he'd never have taken The damn post at all.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry can't Expect to possess a Nice Arts Council Grant, If a BBC chat show Should offer a fee. He'd love to be macho, But he'll have to agree.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry may Never need a successor If he can convey To those eager young writers The terrible truth: There is nothing so trite as The first verse of youth.

The Oxford Professor Of Poetry must Take the role of aggressor And grind into dust Anyone who goes in for Poetical aims: There's no room at the inn for Another Clive James.

Diamonds are crumbling, but who is to blame? Richard Dowden investigates

The action behind the diamond curtain

The African took from his pocket a small, grubby, square of paper. He unfolded it and rolled a thumbnail-sized diamond on to the white pad.

The dealer examined it through his magnifying glass under the fierce fluorescence of the desk lamp, tossed it on to his electric scales and stabbed at his calculator. "What do you want for it?" he asked. "Five thousand dollars a carat," the dealer laughed. "Forget it," he said. "Seven hundred maximum."

The African laughed, too, and rose, gathering his cheap, heavy overcoat around his thin tropical suit. His companion wore a woolen jumper under his long white coat. They paused for a little social chat, then shook hands and let themselves out through the double-locked doors.

"They imagine prices are the same as five years ago", sniffed the dealer. But nothing is the same. The diamond market has recently been violently depressed by unpredictable and half-hidden forces. Some blame uncontrollable smuggling, and others the dominant giant of gem-trading, De Beers.

The Africans hurry from dealer to dealer up and down Pelikanstrasse, the street which runs alongside Antwerp's monumental ironwork railway station and the heart of the world's diamond-dealing and cutting trade.

It is not illegal to import diamonds into Belgium; a carrier simply hands them over to customs when he arrives, and names a dealer. The customs send them to the diamond office at the back of Pelikanstrasse, where the dealer picks them up. But the African traffickers have to smuggle them out of Zaire, Sierra Leone, Angola and other African countries. Congo Brazzaville, which has not a single diamond in its soil, has become a minor exporter.

One of the unwritten rules about the trade is that no questions are asked, though experienced dealers can tell from which country a rough diamond comes, even down to which mine.

The smugglers stay at the Tourist Hotel, a gloomy block on Pelikanstrasse, or in flats just off the street. I visited one at which 40 or 50 will stay, sometimes sleeping on the floor. At least eight children sat and played on the floor and I could hear more next door. It was an African "village" on the seventh floor.

A cheerful woman in traditional dress and flip-flops, who was cooking dried fish over a Calor-gas stove in the middle of the room, told me that all the men were out.

The Antwerp market is still devastated

Some of the traffickers are *logeurs*, with permanent residency in Belgium. They act as brokers and provide a stream of various goods, from motor-cycles to cloth, for others engaged in the trade to take back to Africa to exchange for rough diamonds in the bush. They provide up to 20 per cent of the Antwerp market, earning a good living for themselves but causing severe problems to the countries from which they export. Until recently, Angola was said to be losing up to one third of total production in this way.

De Beers, the South African company which controls the world trade in diamonds, dismisses smuggling as a "mere trickle", but it takes it seriously enough to offer advice to client producers who suffer from the traffic.

"Diamond De Beers buyers in Antwerp buy smuggled diamonds too, but they do it to mop up pools of diamonds on the open market for their own stockpile, now estimated to be worth around \$2 billion, which they control the market."

Dealers have mixed feelings about De Beers. They recognize that violent fluctuations in the price and supply of diamonds

would destroy the market. None of them has the financial backing needed to stockpile, so they accept that monopolistic control is necessary.

On the other hand, they are under no delusion about De Beers' motives, and they resent the company's methods. In Antwerp they are still angry at the way De Beers handled the investment craze of the late 1970s and the subsequent collapse in demand and price. In March 1980, prices scrambled to a record \$63,000 a carat for the highest grade, then fell to one fifth of that price.

The Antwerp market still lies devastated. In the bourse, a high-windowed modern hall that resembles a student dining room, dealers play chess, drink coffee and chat. Only a few sit across the tables from each other, briefcases open, discussing the heaps of gems spread out on the white paper before them.

The notice board in the bourse bears announcements of the suspension or expulsion of members of the world's bourses for non-payment.

'We will make a great deal of money'

Few dealers will talk publicly about the trade. De Beers, ever publicity-shy, discourages the divulgence of trade secrets. But one dealer told *The Times* recently: "De Beers followed the investment market, and sold when the price was high."

New diamond investment houses sprung up in the high inflation period of the late 1970s, many of them lacking the knowledge and trustworthiness the trade relies on. Most of these disappeared with the crash, but many of the older firms collapsed too. De Beers' insistence that its eight holders buy everything they wish the company offers them contributed to the fatal squeeze on some of these firms.

A new system of grading diamonds introduced during the investment craze drew distinctions so fine that even the experienced human eye cannot distinguish between seven different grades.

The old system was based on "trust", the Antwerp dealer said. "You sold a diamond because it looked beautiful. The new grades are just for investors." He argued that De Beers could have issued its own quality certificates, and created an investment institution to protect buyers and dealers.

De Beers disclaims the power to influence the market or control the system, presenting itself as the responsible holder of an essential, almost inalienable, monopoly.

One De Beers executive once called the company a producer-co-operative merely responding to demand: a description that hardly matches the immense political and economic power of the multinational.

The investment fever did not put the company in a dilemma. De Beers could not allow a big build-up by competition of stocks which might later flood the market and threaten their own monopoly. To deter demand, they raised their prices by imposing four successive price increases. This move, however, failed to deter the bubble burst only as a result of a rise in interest rates in the United States.

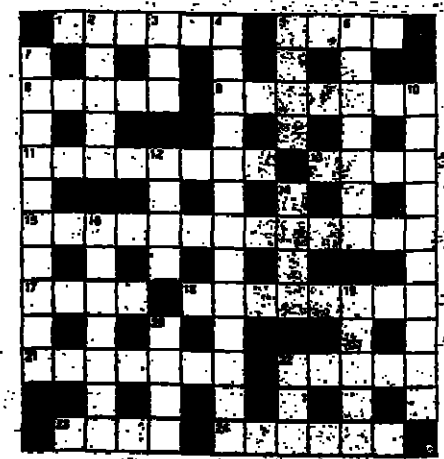
"As prices were tumbling" in 1981, Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of De Beers, said, "I think we walked through and you will find that with the stocks we have accumulated we will make a great deal of money."

Last month, his prediction began to come true. After two lean years De Beers announced profits of nearly £75 million in 1982, a 20 per cent increase on 1981.

The ripples of this revival in the diamond trade are barely felt in Antwerp, yet, still, the market in good-quality gems, Antwerp's specialty, is still weak. On the Pelikanstrasse, the only sign of life remains the price and supply of diamonds African traffickers.

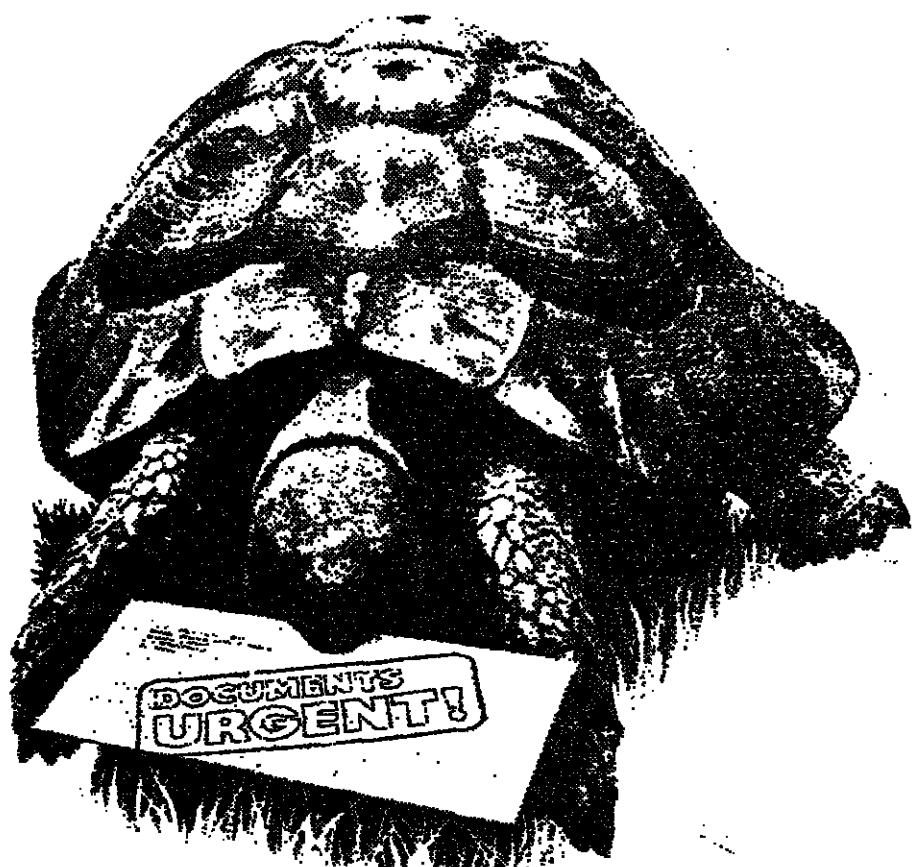
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- ACROSS
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2 Swelling (4)
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11 Tobacco alkaloid (8)
13 Sun circle (4)
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17 Bowler's spell (4)
18 Five-sided shape (8)
21 White ant (7)
22 Southern US marsh (5)
23 Smoke/leg mix (4)
24 Great shock (6)
- DOWN
2 Gironde wine area (5)
3 Knight's title (3)
4 Breaking off (13)
5 Lumbago (4)
6 Pungent (7)
7 Miller's (10)
10 Stage arch (10)
12 Sod (4)



- 14 River deposit (4)
16 Provocative (7)
19 Sabot (5)
20 Sten (5)
25 Pizzazz (8)
26 Written (7)
27 Yacht (7)
28 Net (4)
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Putting your money on a shirt

FASHION
EDITOR'S
COMMENT

Fashion this season has taken up the "African Look" - dark tribal colours, jungle prints, rough weave natural linen and ethnic bangles. Meanwhile, the streets are a glow with fluorescent colours, paint splash prints, fresh white cotton and day-glo accessories.

Striped style and "fashion" have never looked so far apart. But what is fashion except something that is recognizably worn? The dictionary defines it as the "prevailing custom in dress." By my own judgment, fashion now means the prevailing style in any peer group. Nobody is wearing the African look because the only group receptive to the call of the wild was already wearing it last summer. The tribal beat that caught the young mood brought in primitive prints and African bandanna ties in the hair. It has now been presented to the greater buying public a year later in a far less subtle way as safari shirts and animal prints.

The African-inspired clothes hanging on the rails are just the latest example of a "fashion" that has never really justified that label. Stage Lady Diana Spencer put a raft of frills round mass-market necklines (in complete contrast to the High-Tech clothes that "fashion" was offering), we have had no style which women have generally responded to and recognized.

Yet there have been seismic changes to the silhouette (the widened shoulder), to proportions (the square sweaters and cropped trousers), to leisure wear (track suits from toddlers to middle age). The bomber jacket, the big blazer, the cotton sweater are all widely worn.

If such garments are so fashionably acceptable, why do the taste makers (designers, manufacturers, retailers) get "fashion" so badly wrong?

The mistake lies not in the clothes but in the assumption that any one look will now be universally accepted. In the past, fashions were made for and set by a tiny segment of society. ("Conventional usages of upper class society" is one dictionary definition of "fashion".) Clothing today is made democratically for women who lead various lives. The American retailers have realized that success comes from knowing your market and serving it well, which is why they have specialist shops devoted to "career dressing" or fancy hosiery for the junior market.

In Britain, where social divides are less arbitrary, we suppose that if something is fashionable, everybody will actually wear it. On that basis the fluorescent socks which are the flavour of the month in the Kings Road, would mean a rash of day-glo feet at Ascot or in executive board rooms. The idea is absurd, yet designers who produce a particular image and fashion editors who report on their collections are challenged by women who think that a certain style will be imposed on them.

"They aren't going to make us shorten our skirts?" is the suspicious query of women who have not understood that fashion authority no longer exists. You pay your money and you take your choice. And if it is African prints you want, you will be spoiled for choice in the summer sales.



Above: Italian style. Pure cotton classic shirt with small collar and two button cuff £65, textured weave marbled stripe tie in green, blue and tan £17.50, both from Gianfranco Ferré, 37b Brook Street, W1

Below left: High Tech checks. Blue and white graph print with white collar £35, stripe tie in emerald, royal blue and maroon £16, both from Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, W1. Seiko Data-2000 personal information system with memory store watch from Seiko stockists.

Below: Wide-angle collar. Textured weave grey stripe cotton shirt with cutaway collar £59.50, also green and rust, from Gray Flannel, 7 Chiltern Street, W1. Black and white ikat print tie £16 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street, W1. Slub wool and silk black and white jacket £120 from SJS on 2 at Simpsons Piccadilly.

Glasses from a selection at For Eyes, 21 James Street, WC2, Cheapside, Sloane Street.

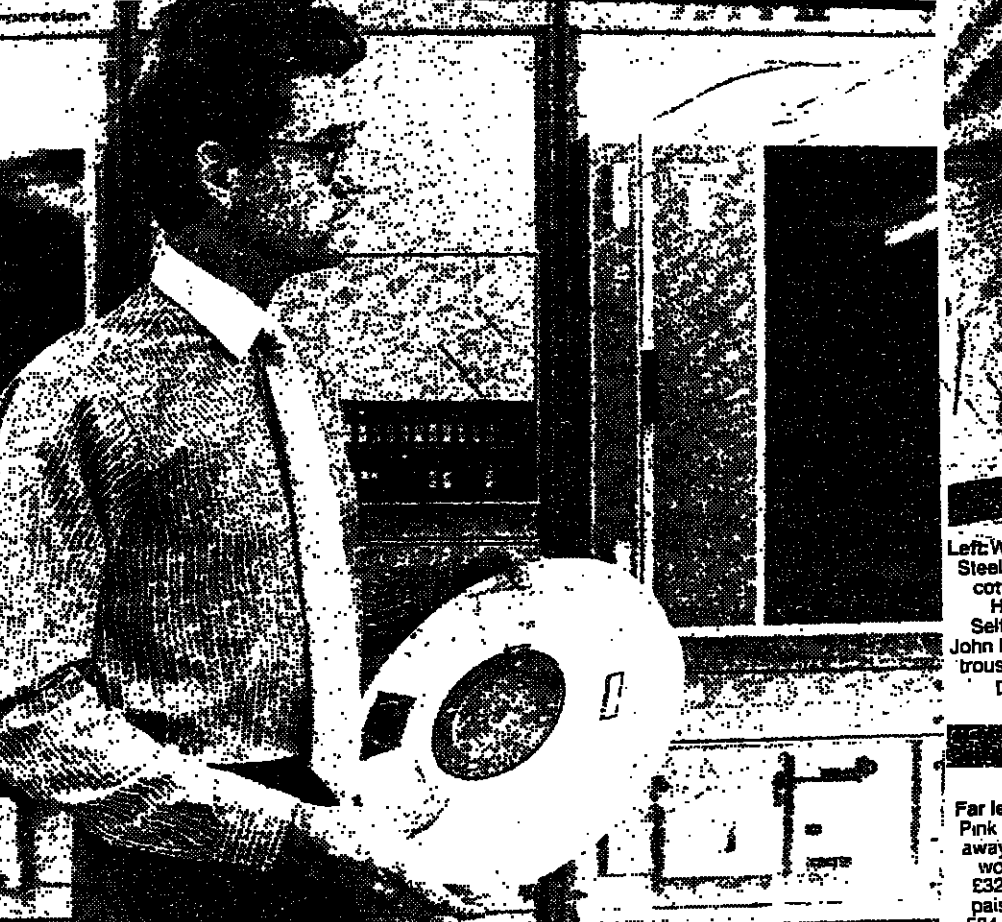
Above: The new prints. Scott Crolla's blue and white pinstripe shirt with paisley print sleeves and floral back £48, geometric patterned woven silk tie £18, dusky pink linen buckle waist trousers £50 all from Crolla, 35 Dover Street, W1.

Top left: The sporting shirt. Rose pink and white cotton shirt with tab collar and buttoned cuff, also lemon, grey £48.50, green and pin-striped silk tie with sporting motif £27.50, both from Dunhill, 20 Duke Street, St James's, SW1 and Harrods.

Horsehead tie clip £2.50 from Paul Smith.

Left: Reactionary chic. Ticking stripe red, black and white cotton shirt £34.95, geometric print silk bow tie £9.95, lacquer red enamel cuff links £23.95 and braces all from Hilditch and Key, 73 and 37 Jermyn Street, SW1. High-waist trousers £57.50 from Paul Smith, 44 Floral Street, WC2. Fashion Assistant Christine Paineil.

Photographs by HARRY KERR



Left: White collar worker. Steel grey striped polo cotton shirt by Van Heusen £14.95 Selfridges, W1. Tie, John Lewis, W1. Flannel trousers Dunhill, Duke Street.

Far left: Print and stripe. Pink and grey stripe cut away shirt £35 and fine wool suit by Cerruti £325, both SJS on 2, paisley tie and hankie £24, all from Simpson Piccadilly.

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The blossoming of prints, the sliced-away collar, bold mixes of stripes, paint strokes of colour, the return of the formal cuff, a new emphasis on texture - all the passion of changing fashion is in the simple shirt and tie.

The safe shirt bought to a price to blend in with the office furniture may still be the standard for the working man. But the crisp edge to young men's wing collars has inspired a new generation of formal shirts. The dark shirt under a lighter jacket as worn by Duran Duran has become a pop statement of style. The younger Hooray Henrys like the reactionary chic of double cuffs, cuff links, bow ties and foulard handkerchieves. And perhaps The Smith's penchant for flowers has made the floral print the high fashion look.

The regular shirt changes according to its collar, which is still quite small but now cut away at a sharp angle last seen in fashion on the Duke of Windsor. Button-down and tab collars are also small with the collar pin across the throat a fashion feature. White collar workers have seen their shirts move from badge of office to high style. The smart white collars now tend to come on striped shirts in subtle combi-

nations of colour: pink with yellow and teal blue, green with aqua and bright red.

The variegated stripe is the mainstream story of the season. Stripes broad and narrow are used in tandem on one shirt to give the effect of pin-striped suiting or ticking. Because texture is now important to fashion, shirtings simulate tweed with herringbone or weave effects printed into a stripe. Graphic and grid checks, sometimes used in conjunction with the stripes are also high style and these same geometric lines make the favourite patterns for ties.

Mixtures of patterns and stripes are the new, look, wittily demonstrated by Scott Crolla's patchwork shirt that offers a formal striped shirt front, collar and cuffs under a suit, with bold and paisley patterns on sleeves and back. This is a mirror image of street style, which puts paisley pattern ties with striped shirts, or plain knitted silks against dark tropical prints.

Men are becoming more adventurous, claims Roger Taubot of Hilditch and Key, who find even stockbrokers can be wooed into pink or yellow shirts although the English professional classes is still red or blue stripes. Twenty per cent of

their business is now in the Duke of Windsor cutaway collar, complemented by ties in neat spots, a pattern revived from their 1920s pattern books.

The Jermyn Street shirt is distinguished from the chain store version by being made to a standard rather than a price. It is hard to find muted, two-button or double cuffs on pocket shirts and the ubiquitous chain store polo/cotton is not the stuff that gentlemen's shirts are made from.

Italian designers produce what used to be considered English classics: shirts and ties in simple and perfect proportions using innovative textures and unexpected colours to give a cutting edge on style.

Playing safe is the problem with British designers. Last week, Van Heusen, who make shirts in a wide range of colours and include Sea Island cotton, unveiled their new tailored collection from autumn. At an elegant show at the Royal Festival Hall, and as part of a Festival Hall concert, Van Heusen sponsored concert, we saw well-constructed suits, jackets, casual trousers and blazers in styles that would not frighten the horses or the most conservative customers.

Wearing your favourite pet (or your grandchildren) on your sleeve, means a serious commission for Paul Longmire. He specializes in custom-made cufflinks, engraved or enamelled with anything from a family crest to a company logo to the aforementioned nearest and dearest.

The varied collection of cufflinks antique and modern in his shop in St James's grew from a general interest in jewelry and silverware. Victorian designs and dress sets of waistcoat buttons and studs (now high fashion again) spawned the craft of cuff-links. New shapes and styles inspired by the nineteenth century designs and made in enamelled silver gilt (from £148 plus VAT). Racing links with the correctly coloured enamel vest and cap or burgess sailing flags (£190 plus VAT) come a little cheaper than pets, people or clan tartans (£290).

Paul Longmire bought his Bury Street shop the day he went in to look at an unusual trout tie pin and found that the business was for sale. Now over 100 tie pins and stick pins are also part of his collection. They sell to the same men who have re-discovered the double cuff and the links and see the discreet dandy effect as current style.

Presentation sleeve links (including some charming intertwined initials for Edward and Alexandra) are an inspiration to customers who want to commission designs for themselves. If you want to find a present over the counter there are links old and new (from £55), but Paul Longmire thinks that the custom-made cuff-links makes a more personal present and sets an interesting challenge for his workrooms. For the record, the cute grandchildren enshrined in enamel were made for an American couple. Englishmen, it seems, are more likely to want to immortalize their dogs.

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Something up my sleeve

Wearing your favourite pet (or your grandchildren) on your sleeve, means a serious commission for Paul Longmire. He specializes in custom-made cufflinks, engraved or enamelled with anything from a family crest to a company logo to the aforementioned nearest and dearest.

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Personalized pet cuff links, centre, garnet dumbbell links circular swirl links, available with buttons and studs. All from Paul Longmire. Shirts from Austin Reed.

THE TIMES DIARY

Ken the chartist

Neil Kinnock's mute appearance on Tracey Ullman's video is about to be consigned to the footnotes of socialist music history. Eric Heffer's plea for a left-wing song for Europe will be forgotten; even *The Red Flag* may be challenged: Ken Livingstone is to become a pop singer. He is cutting a record with chart-topping Flaming Pickets, a group of politically left as its name suggests. The words are being kept secret but, as the song was being written for this month's GLC jobs festival, you can probably guess. The performance is quite overshadowing a more modest effort, by the all-women High Jinx, picked by the GLC as its anti-abortion campaign song.

Driving force

The depomping of Edinburgh's first citizen by the new left-wing council will not leave the Lord Provost (sorry, convenor) in bicycle clips. John McKay tells me his Labour group is likely to insist he keeps the Daimeir "although personally I'd see nothing wrong in a Metro." Chaffers John and Henry must be worried.

Politics deals another blow to sport. The Libyan national football team, undaunted by a 3-0 thrashing by Manchester United in Tripoli in February, were keen to take on Nottingham Forest. The organizers of the tour now forest me: "There's no chance."

Missing link

Organizers of the SDP-Liberal Alliance campaign for next month's European elections were just proud to produce their manifesto yesterday, a week before Labour and the Tories. But the 36-page document has just two omissions: nowhere does it mention that it is the party's campaign manifesto, nor even the election date.

Honest graft

Three marriage dowries are awaiting to be snapped up in the City of London. The booty comes from a "Marriage Portion" bequest, left to the City in 1880 by a Signor Pasquale Favale, who was induced to leave hundreds of thousands of lire because "his wife was a native of London and that he had passed many happy years in the City." All that's required is to fill out a form (no mugshot needed) proving that applicants are aged between 16 and 25; are about to be married, or were married within the past year; were born within the Square Mile of London (that includes all babies born at Barts); or have lived in the City for seven years. Signor Favale left only one catch - that the dowries, awarded by the Port and City of London Health and Social Services Committee - go to girls who are "poor and honest". Last year only two applied - probably not because of the lack of poverty and honesty in the City, but because the dowries are only worth £30 a throw.

A one-day course on how to teach managers to cope with stress, organized by Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, has had to be cancelled. The businessmen were too busy to attend.

Didn't travel

Dr John Eaton set off from Saffron Walden on a 1,000-mile tour to collect 1,500 bottles of wine from French vineyards. They were to be sold to raise cash for the British Association for Immediate Care - the organization which provides medical treatment at the scene of road accidents. What happens? An elderly Belgian smashes into the back of his car.

BARRY FANTONI



Remember, the crowd here are expected to get up out of their seats

False impression

Spent King deputy chairman of BL Technology, recently replaced the steel panel on the driver's door of his new 3.5 Rover with an experimental plastic one. He was so pleased with the match that he challenged colleagues to identify the plastic version. "When you find it, give it a good kick: it is quite impervious to knocks," he said. Later, King found a large dent - in the rear door.

There's nothing like first-hand experience: Brian Pearson, editor of the magazine *African Health*, has just returned from a medical conference in Nigeria... with all the symptoms of blackwater fever.

Passing thoughts

I doubt that the driver of the 6.36 am Wolverhampton-Euston train will forget the new £2m Sandwell and Dudley station in a hurry - chiefly because that is precisely what he did when it was waiting to be officially opened by local dignitaries and BR top brass yesterday.

Michael Binyon looks behind the impending industrial unrest

Germany: enter the leisure ethic

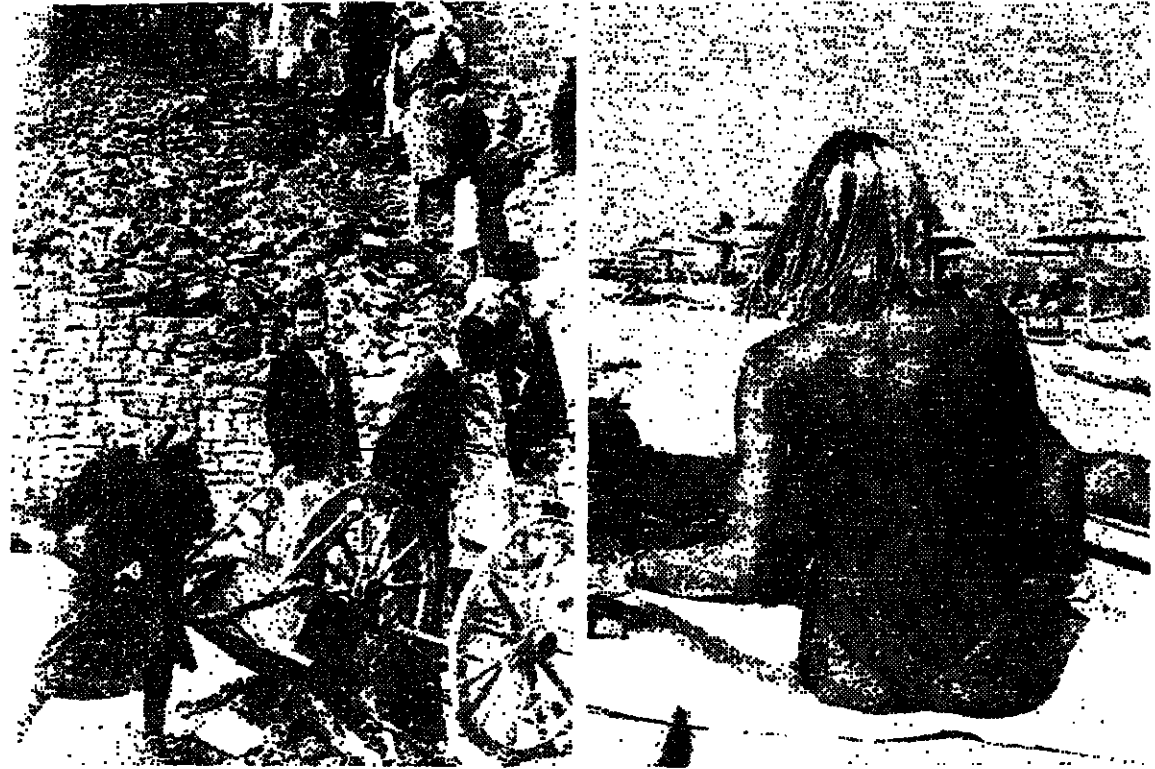
Bonn. Everyone remembers how the Germans used to work: women in headscarves, passing bricks from hand to hand as they laboured in the rubble to rebuild a country devastated by war, men who put in long hours in the factories and produced an economic miracle; unions that sat down with the bosses, not to argue over wage claims, but to plot strategies for greater efficiency and higher output.

Those were the good old days, people say - the Adenauer era when hard work was the way to moral and material salvation. But as Germany prospered, attitudes changed. Waves of Gastarbeiter - Italians, Yugoslavs, Turks - came to a hungry labour market to take those jobs Germans no longer wanted. People took things a little easier. They wanted more time to spend the money they were making, were more interested in holidays abroad than overtime at work. Now German workers, who already put in fewer hours than those of other western industrialized countries, want to bring the working week down to 35 hours without any cut in pay. They are threatening widespread strikes to back their demands. What has happened to the old German work ethic?

The polls have given one answer. Young people today are more interested in being with their families. They no longer believe they should produce ever more and work ever harder; and they are increasingly unwilling to sacrifice leisure for more money. Such findings, challenging long-standing assumptions, have led some commentators to conclude that the Germans are becoming idle, a notion abhorrent to the conservative older generation. "Germans outraged: We are not lazy!" screamed the headline in the mass circulation *Bild* after one such poll last year.

But there is more to it than that. Those who regret the passing of self-sacrifice and unstinting commitment to work should remember the peculiar circumstances of the post-war reconstruction. Not only was superhuman effort the only way to make Germany habitable again; hard work was in some way expiation for the enormity of the war, a way in which Germans could regain dignity and the respect of the rest of the world.

Circumstances today are also special. In Germany - perhaps more than in other western countries - the environmentalists, opponents of consumerism, the Greens and the alternative movement in general have influenced public attitudes to work. And the nature of work is changing rapidly. The advent of automation, the computer revolution, the contraction of traditional industries, have swept away thousands of jobs and left many workers



Berlin 1945, Ibiza 1984: a corner of a colonised foreign beach that reflects a growing distaste for work for work's sake

bewildered and alienated by new practices and jobs that leave many people feeling little more than cogs in an impersonal machine. The polls that documented the waning enthusiasm for work also found growing dissatisfaction with the nature of employment today. There is a yearning for the old skilled industries, for the fulfilment of the craftsman.

Such changes have been gathering pace for several years. The unions are taking them up now because unemployment is obliging them to abandon their cosy relationships with employers and fight in a more partisan way for their member's interests.

The unions are threatened in a way they have never been since the war. Organized on an industry-wide basis, they did not compete with one another and were assured of an important say in the running of factories and enterprises. Accordingly they were the envy of the western world. So successful was the cooperation with management that strikes were a rarity, and *Mittelstand* was held up as a model for good industrial relations. The whole system was nicknamed *IG Deutschland*, as though the country were one giant trade union.

But collective bargaining on a nationwide basis has become less and less satisfactory. There is little room for flexibility. In the old boom days, regional differences were glossed over, but in the present harsher environment union mem-

bers in the prosperous Stuttgart area, among the highest paid in Europe, have very different demands and expectations from those in the depressed area along the North Sea coast or in the Ruhr.

Trade unions, which for political reasons were induced to compromise with management during the 13 years of Social Democratic rule, now find they have become, in some members' eyes, too identified with the employers' interests.

The change of government has also altered the balance of power between unions and management and thrown down political challenges. Unemployment and the lay-offs in traditional industries have robbed the unions of their power: the Metalworkers, the country's largest union, which is leading the fight for the 35-hour week, has seen its membership fall by 160,000 in three years.

The unions therefore feel the need for a fight to give themselves a higher profile and recapture lost political ground. What better issue to take on than the 35-hour week, which they can present as a radical and far-reaching measure in reducing unemployment?

It is a controversial cause that does not promise the unions an easy victory. German workers already work only 1,772 hours a year, compared with the Americans' 1,904 and the Japanese 2,101. The Kohl government seems to be on solid ground when it argues that the unions can choose shorter hours or

more pay, but not both. German industry cannot afford such a unilateral gesture so long as the country's competitors do not also share out existing jobs. As the campaign's opponents say on their car stickers: "The 35-hour week will create more jobs - in the Far East."

Ironically, just as Germany has been held up as an industrial model to much of Western Europe, worried industrialists here are now pointing to Japan as the example to follow, while the unions are looking the other way, gearing themselves up for the most serious industrial strife since 1978.

Many people, especially the Greens and the left, are glad the somnolent unions are now forcing a thorough examination of how work should be organized. They say this proves their ideas are getting across: that the god of economic growth is no longer supreme. "Germans are now seeking a new balance between working and living, having and being", a social scientist who helped compile a recent survey proclaimed triumphantly.

Conservatives are appalled, however, and insist that most people would rather retire early than work a shorter week. They say that strikes will be supported out of solidarity rather than conviction. Whatever the outcome, German society is now having to grapple with a problem that is being presented in a starker and more heated way than it has yet been in other industrial societies.

Peter Kellner

Will it soon be a Gang of One?

Dr David Owen can scarcely put a foot wrong these days, if his coverage in the media is anything to go by. During the Libyan embassy siege he seemed to pop up everywhere, from *News at Ten* to the *Daily Mail*, as the former foreign secretary who knows a thing or two about dealing with awkward foreigners. In Parliament he is one of the few opposition speakers that other MPs flock to hear. At weekends he is apt to dash off a letter to the Prime Minister, release it to the press, and wait for the news bulletins to broadcast his views.

One of the most compelling requirements of a politician is to command attention, and Dr Owen commands a lot of it.

There is, though, one group of people whom Dr Owen does not impress: the voters. Or rather, they might like him, but they are none too keen on his party. While Dr Owen basks in the comforting glow of media approval, the Social Democrats are withering out there in the real world where parties flourish or perish according to whether they can win votes and seats.

The recent local election results show how weak they are. One of the SDP's original objectives was to attract a new kind of support that the Liberals had largely failed to attract: the disaffected, urban, traditionally Labour, voter. That strategy was one of the principal reasons why the Gang of Four created a separate party. It is a strategy that has now comprehensively failed.

England's 36 metropolitan districts have 2,421 councillors. All of them have been elected since the SDP started fighting elections. (This month's contests saw the departure or re-election of the last district councillors elected before 1982.) The SDP's total tally in these urban areas after three years of elections is just 22 councillors.

If we add the main urban councils in Scotland and Wales which held elections this month, the picture is even bleaker for the SDP. The party took three seats in Dunfermline and one in Dundee, but none in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Falkirk, Monklands, Motherwell, Newport or Swansea. Adding these 10 to the 36 English metropolitan districts, the SDP can now boast only 26 out of the 2,859 councillors - less than 1 per cent.

Two reasons are advanced for this dismal performance. The first is Britain's first-past-the-post electoral system. But this provides a far from complete alibi. The Liberals face the same hurdle, but they have still amassed 202 councillors over the past three years in the English metropolitan districts, a further 26 in the ten Scottish and Welsh districts takes the total to 228. Leaving aside London and Cardiff, which did not vote this month, there

are nine Liberal councillors for every Social Democrat in urban Britain's district councils.

The second reason, or excuse, flows from that contrast. The Liberals, we are told, fight the more promising seats, while the SDP has to plough less fertile soil. This is true up to a point: in terms of voting movements (as opposed to absolute totals), the SDP has done only a little worse than the Liberals in the past three years. The Liberals have won more seats because they have advanced where they already had some support.

But the statistical logic of this argument sits oddly with the original political promise. It was precisely because the Liberals had done so badly in many urban areas that the SDP decided to fight them. Just as the Liberals had built up local strength through hard work and community politics in Conservative areas such as Cheltenham, Eastbourne and Chelmsford, and a scattering of such northern cities as Liverpool, Rochdale and Stockport, so the SDP claimed that it would uncover a new layer of electoral support elsewhere.

The SDP's failure to fulfil that ambition now threatens the party's future. By every yardstick it is far weaker than the Liberals. It has fewer members, less money, fewer MPs and councillors and less public support. (In 1981, far more people would say "SDP" than "Liberal" when asked which party they supported; today more people say "Liberal".)

Even the SDP's greatest asset when it was founded - the experience in government of the Gang of Four - is now largely spent. Shirley Williams and William Rodgers lost their seats last year, and Roy Jenkins has made little public impact since he resigned the party leadership. One Dr Owen remains to remind us of the SDP's original intention to break the mould. He does it very well, but not well enough. The tide is running out on the SDP, and on the strange notion that the Liberal/SDP Alliance could ever endure as a partnership of equals.

Many Liberals would like to cut loose from the SDP but know they risk losing many of the gains they have made. (A split between local Liberals and Social Democrats was instrumental in the Liberals losing control of Inverclyde council.) But the alternative course - to take over the SDP - is blocked by Dr Owen's determination to present himself as the leader of a fully fledged party. It is perhaps the greatest tribute one can make to his political skills that he can sustain that impression when there is clearly no longer any substance to it.

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Roger Scruton

The last link with a lost world

People need things, almost as much as things need people. The critical moment of their mutual support is the moment of breakdown. Suddenly the object upon which everything depended - the car, the boiler, the drain, or the dinner suit - is unusable, and you contemplate its betrayal in helpless disbelief. It is some time before you overcome your self-pity enough to recognize that its need is greater than yours. But where do you turn for the person who will assist it? This question, the most irksome faced by civilized man, is constantly posed by my pathetically dependent motorcycle.

Time was when everything usable was also repairable: chairs, sofas, cars, hats, accordions, carpets. All were in a state of flux, as new defects revealed themselves, and new patches were affixed to cover them. Objects entered the world of human uses only to pass at once from being to becoming.

Repair was not so much a habit as an honoured custom. People respected the past of damaged things, restored them as though a failing child, and looked on their handiwork with satisfaction. In the act of repair the object was made anew, to occupy the social position of the broken one. Worn shoes went to the anvil, holed socks and unravelled sleeves to the darning-lass - that peculiar mushroom shaped object which stood always ready on the mantelpiece.

The custom of repair was not confined to the home. Every town, every village, had its cobbler, its carpenter, its wheelwright and its smith. In each community people supported repairers, who in turn testified to the honour in which their occupations were held. But to where have they repaired, these people who guaranteed the friendliness of objects? With great difficulty you may still find a cobbler - but for the price of his work you could probably buy a new pair of shoes. For the cost of 15 digital watches you may sometimes find a person who will fix the mainspring of your grandfather's timepiece.

The truth is that repair, like every serious social activity, has its ethos, and when that ethos is lost, no amount of slap-dash labour can make up for it. The person who repairs must love the broken object, and must love also the process of repair and all that pertains to it. The modern motor vehicle is the subject not of repair, but of "after-sale service", a euphemism implying that only the firm who made it can restore it, according to specialized procedures of its own and with a view to ensuring that it will never again be "as good as new".

Which returns me to my theme. Here and there you may still find

places where the ethos of repair lingers, and where you will not be brushed contemptuously aside merely because your vehicle is of a model, a year, or a character, which falls outside some manufacturer's prescription. On Ladbroke Grove one such place still survives: a peculiar testimony to declining values, amid the planning blight of Kensal Town. Only the name - Hamrax Motors Ltd, in yellow plastic lettering - seems to unite this little Victorian terrace with its surrounding world.

Above the ruined classical mark of the shop, however, is affixed a more ancient label - an enamel plaque in royal blue, bearing the title "Imperial Motors", and beneath it, in the window, is a most extraordinary revelation of ancient customs. Where you would expect the chrome extravagance of the latest bum-ticker from Japan, or the polished prop of the fetishist's day-dream, you find only inexplicable piles of wire, dusty fuses, disordered piles of sprockets, tappets, axle-nuts and cotter-pins. Beyond, in the deep interior, stand shelves upon shelves of smudged cardboard boxes, each labelled with some hieroglyph, and each overflowing with small metallic parts.

In the cramped counter of this shop men congregate from every corner of England: steel-studded ton-up boys from Watford, gaber-dine-clad Sunbeam buffs from the depths of Devon; soldiers and sailors who have bumped themselves from Wales on farmyard bikes of their own devising. With infinite patience, the eccentric need of each is catered for: a chain link on an ancient single-cylinder Matchless will be searched out with as much concern as a complete gearbox for last year's Kawasaki. Indeed, the more the staff will welcome it, and problems of repair awaken interest proportionate, not to their profit, but to their rarity.

Hamrax Motors consists of three terraced houses knocked together, and every corner of the dark interior is given over to the storage of motorcycle parts, which are stacked on shelves and hung on the walls like votive offerings. To reach the workshop you must go out of the shop and down a flight of stone steps beneath an arch. This touching architectural detail, which once gave drama to the street below, typifies the shadow-filled grandeur of the Victorian slums. Alas, the rage for hygiene and social justice has left nothing standing, save only the patched fabric of Hamrax itself, sustained by the life-giving ethos of repair, and by the sense that a Englishman's bike is his charger.

The author is editor of the *Salisbury Review*.

Bernard Levin suggests a logical step for dealing with lunacy



Demagogues whose actions betray a basic insanity: Gaddafi, Amin, Mao, Bokassa and Khomeini

When madness is abroad, no hostage to misfortune

monly) imaginary opponents, made all the more hideous by its arbitrary nature. The Ayatollah Khomeini is another raving madman with real power; to say, as some do, that he is not mad but inspired by an extreme fanaticism is to miss the point: for fanaticism as extreme as that is madness.

Once, the problem was quite easily solved. Caligula was murdered by the Praetorian Guard; George III was quietly replaced by a Regent; Ludwig of Bavaria (mind you, the only real evidence that he was mad was his passion for the music of Wagner, a diagnosis that I am in no position to endorse) was forced to abdicate. In Africa before independence any local ruler who didn't have all his cups in the cupboard would have been removed rapidly by the colonial power; Indian princelings who succumbed to the mid-day sun were usually persuaded by the Resident to go on a prolonged tiger-shoot while alternative constitutional arrangements were worked out.

What has changed? Two things. One of them among the most dreadful phenomena of our time. The first is that with modern communications, arms, methods of surveillance and political control, it is much easier for the mad rulers to continue ruling, and much more difficult for those around them to engineer their overthrow. (The same, of course, is true for sane tyrants). The second, and worse, development is that madness has become infectious. Khomeini has no difficulty at all in summoning at will any number of howling lunatics to lynch his victims, storm an embassy or do anything else he bids them ("Why, 'twill not be seen in him there - there, the men are as mad as he"). Mao did the same on a vastly greater scale: Gaddafi himself fights only with his favourite weapon, the mouth, but he has no lack of young

Gaddafi's to go out into the world and murder those who have displeased him.

Madness being what it is, we cannot know where it will strike next. I am certainly not the first to point out that if Hitler had had nuclear weapons he would certainly have used them at the end of the war, even if he had known that the Allies had had them too; not long ago there was a story, which may well be true, that Gaddafi had asked the post-Mao Chinese leaders to sell him some nuclear bombs. As the appropriate technology becomes simpler, the number of countries that could soon be in possession of nuclear weapons (though perhaps not of a long-range delivery system) grows constantly.

From time to time, there are vague suggestions that something ought to be done about this problem; the something generally takes the form of some kind of armed international equivalent of two men in white coats accompanied by a member of the local authority. It is impossible for a large number of reasons, worst of them that mad leaders may be useful to countries - which would have to agree to the despatch of the white-coated parachute task-force: Giscard supported Bokassa, and Britain financed Amin and trades with Gaddafi himself. (Mr Andrew Faulds went even further; he denounced the Israeli rescue of Amin's victims at Entebbe.)

What then is to be done? In the sense of detaining at Her Majesty's pleasure these mad dogs who infect our world, nothing. But what we can do - it is not much, but it is something - is to make sure, when the signs of lunacy in rulers become apparent ("madness in great ones is not unwatched be"), that we have not left too many hostages in their territory. Gaddafi was able to

behave as he did (including, I take it, instructing the creatures inside the "Libyan People's Bureau" to open fire) because there were several thousand British citizens in his hands, apart from the embassy staff. But whether he was mad or sane, Britain should have broken off diplomatic relations with him long before she did (the United States did so three years ago), at the very latest when he began to send his hired gunmen to murder people in this country; after that, a series of firm warnings to any British citizen who wanted to go to Libya for work or trade or play, to the effect that they did so at their peril, would have been enough.

No one should have been in any doubt about the nature of Khomeini's madness; his words and actions before the Shah were overthrown, were clear enough. Amin's intentions were also clear well before he began to carry them out. Giscard finally decided that Bokassa had gone too far when he massacred a classroom of children; he had massacred plenty of grown-ups before that, and eaten bits of some of them, too.

It is not, I recognize, a particularly dramatic, elegant or even heroic programme that I recommend. But rarely, if ever, shall we be in a position to send a task force to overthrow a madman who has seized power, and rarely shall we be able to threaten him with a fate he cannot impose on us and in a much worse form. (Suppose President Carter had announced that unless the hostages were released, all Iranian citizens in the US would be executed. Khomeini would have ignored the threat - not only because of course it would never have been carried out, but because he would regard the victims as being executed fortuitously in being sent to Paradise earlier than they otherwise might have been.) The attempt to organize international measures against air piracy do not exactly inspire confidence in any kind of collective security against the madmen. But in the absence of any generally agreed plan, it is up to individual governments to draw up their own. The Libyan affair, if it should lead to such thought on the part of our government, may yet turn out to have done more good than harm.

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MILITARY MANAGEMENT

In defence, as in so many other major areas of policy, this Government prefers the managerial to the radical approach. That is the philosophy which lies behind the Prime Minister's refusal to contemplate any further cut in Government spending. It is based on a political fear of the consequences of radicalism. It is assumed (questionably) that radical reform in the structure and burden of British Government will attract too much noise and opposition, and that a properly conducted search for greater managerial efficiency would just as satisfactorily contain the inherently expansionist pressures within every spending department.

Mr Michael Heseltine has worked quite correctly to his brief at the Defence Ministry. The result, in yesterday's White Paper, is predictably managerial and depressingly unimaginative in terms of the opportunity for a decisive stimulus to British grand strategy which this Government has declined. The White Paper contains all the right sentiments, but it reveals that little has changed, in strategic terms, from the era of Sir John Nott, who preceded Mr Heseltine and who, before he was distracted by the Falklands war, was obsessively engaged in a hurried and one-dimensional attempt to cut back on naval spending, which was marginally alleviated by yesterday's decision to keep more frigates in the active fleet.

Considerable parts of yesterday's White Paper are set aside to extol Mr Heseltine's new managerial tools. We hear of cost economies, rationalizations, and devices for greater competition in weapons procurement, all of which Mr Heseltine hopes will produce a bigger bang for a buck

in the defence budget. None of that can be criticized, since it is a necessary administrative element in controlling a department which spends £17 billion per year. What is open to criticism is the absence of any serious attempt to look beyond the managerial minutiae not only at the scale of Britain's strategic priorities, but at the possibilities which exist for reinvigorating the Nato alliance after many years of strategic and tactical atrophy in its thinking.

In fact Mr Heseltine's department has carried out two internal reviews of grand strategy – the first dealing with contingencies outside the Nato area, the second within the alliance – in which Mr Heseltine appears to have shown no great interest beyond allowing some further emphasis to be devoted to Nato's northern flank.

We see that 95 per cent of Britain's defence budget is directly or indirectly devoted to alliance tasks. It seems unlikely that sufficient energy is being applied to see that such an effort could be better employed in a dual capacity. The purpose of that would be to ensure that the ultimate obligation to Nato did not preclude a more flexible approach to the use of British forces outside the Nato area, since it is an undeniable consequence of the undeniable stabilization of the central front that the Soviet response has been to seek to undermine the western position in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean.

The White Paper states that the United Kingdom provides 70 per cent of the forces involved in Nato tasks in the eastern Atlantic. That demonstrates the proportionate importance of the contribution which the Royal Navy makes to burden-sharing

in the Alliance. The same cannot be said for the Army's contribution on the mainland of Europe, which perhaps explains why the White Paper declines to define the proportion of Nato's total force provided by the commitment to maintain Rhine Army at a permanent peace-time strength of 55,000 men. That figure would rise to 150,000 in an emergency: so why does it have to be so inviolate in peacetime? The persistence with maintaining Rhine Army at this figure, with the garrison accompanied by all its dependants and their welfare, contributes an unnecessary burden to the Defence budget, and helps to ossify Nato's tactical thinking for the central front which for some years now has cried out for revision.

The peace-time establishments of the Army and the RAF in Germany have no tactical rationale. The line-up in central Europe makes military nonsense. It is born of old political formulae which have outlived their relevance. As a result of its performance in the Falklands war, this Government enormously enhanced the standing of the Nato Alliance as a whole. With such credentials it had the opportunity to move in on the rigidities of alliance thinking. It could have generated an active debate, both on the nature of a more coordinated contribution for the Allies to meet emergencies outside Europe, and on a proposal for greater military logic in the way members share the costs and burdens of defence. There is little evidence that Mr Heseltine is looking that far; indeed the star attraction of his White Paper, called Minis (Management Information System for Ministers and top management) about sums it all up.

TANDEM TROUBLES

With quite a flourish at the weekend, the Social Democratic Party issued a manifesto for the European parliamentary elections next month which was highly interventionist in terms of economic and social spending. On a European scale, it is reminiscent of the National Plan era of British politics.

Since the SDP's chance of securing seats in the European parliament is an outside one the manifesto is more interesting for what it reveals of the party's not very innovative frame of mind than as an essay in practical politics. More relevant to the real world was the emergency motion that was highly critical of intimidation in the miners' strike, which however, had to be withdrawn because it was considered not sufficiently even-handed.

The fact is that the SDP, uneasily struggling in conjunction with the Liberals either to obtain the casting vote in the politics of the next parliament or to replace Labour as the principal party in opposition to the Conservatives, is having a hard time. In recent by-elections (particularly where it has had to fight in solid Labour or socially mixed areas) it has done worse than the Liberals have in their traditional role of harvesting Tory protest votes in safe Tory seats, which votes customarily return to their old allegiance in the next general election.

Should it, therefore, continue its struggle to remain an individ-

ual and separate party, or has the time come to consider amalgamation with the Liberals in a single Alliance Party, in order to appeal more coherently to the electorate? The fall in its support since its best days in the last parliament has been drastic. Its brief peak of 44 per cent support in the electorate after the Crosby by-election at the end of 1981 was, of course, always artificial, but thereafter the Alliance ran Labour a close race up to the general election last year, in which it obtained 26 per cent of the vote.

In the first five months of this year, however, Alliance support as measured by the MORI opinion poll has been down to 18 per cent. Of course, it has done better than that at the recent by-elections but (as at Crosby) by-elections are a notoriously bad guide to general election prospects. More to the point, perhaps, is that MORI also found a notably sharp drop in support from the youngest age group, among trade unionists, and in the Midlands and North – in other words in precisely the places where the SDP ought to win votes if it is to fulfil its function in the Alliance.

The Alliance suffers from having a split message for the electorate. The SDP has a nationally known leader (with a dwindling handful of ex-Ministers around him) but with no national organization comparable to the Liberals'. The Liberal Party has an effective congeries

of local organizations, often of a highly idiosyncratic kind but no leadership capable of imposing unity and direction. Should, then, the two parties amalgamate, with either Dr Owen or Mr Steel as the single leader?

For the SDP, the case against doing so is formidable. It needs the Liberal organization but not what goes with it. The amalgam of British "Greens", unitarists, crypto-social democrats, community politicians and "wet" Tories is the last sort of party that Dr Owen and his friends left the Labour Party to lead.

They think that they have a different sort of message for the patriotic working class vote which has been traditionally Labour-supporting and which they aim to capture.

They are right to think that this is the segment of the electorate that they must attract to the Alliance to be really in business. They have been right in thinking that the features of the Liberal Party which appeal to discontented Tories have no comparable appeal to Labour voters. Yet time is not on the side of the Alliance. If by the half-way mark of this parliament its prospects have not significantly improved, the two parties and their leaders will probably have to reconsider with a genuinely open mind whether working in tandem rather than as a unity is really practical politics.

SUBSIDISING HOME OWNERS

Recent surveys of the condition of Britain's housing – cited by our Property Correspondent in his articles on boom and bust in government improvement grants – can make fretful reading. They show in figures what an observant stroller through the suburban avenues of the cities would also notice: the half-timbered gables of inter-war houses now conceal materials reaching the end of their reliability. No longer are the problems of an aging housing stock confined to inner city terraces. Large-scale refurbishment is needed in the private sector as well as council estates. A highly imperfect housing market appears increasingly unable to deliver a sufficiently close relationship between price and physical condition and between the incentive to improve and the resources of home owners.

There are those who, naturally enough, are excited by the prospects of the economic transformation through which Britain must surely pass in the years ahead, tend to dismiss the housing question as archaic, a mere juggling of spaces and people or a matter of do-it-yourself. Others, confronted with the figures for disrepair in the new surveys, exhibit that old statist reflex which pushes public money out with little regard to either priority or equity.

The reflex is by no means a property of the left. Home improvement grants are a form of collectivism which Conserva-

tives, especially Conservative councils, love. This showed in the promiscuity of the grant arrangements made by Sir Geoffrey Howe in his April 1982 Budget. It showed again in the urgent imprecations from ministers (including Mrs Thatcher) to "spend, spend, spend" the winter before last. In the space of a year spending on grants doubled. In the bonanza huge queues have formed creating a pattern of grant-getting related only distantly to the real state of housing.

The state has a legitimate interest in the transfer of the housing stock between generations and hence in its condition. Home improvement grants (unlike tax reliefs) feed directly into the physical fabric. There are groups of private owners such as the elderly who may lack the means to maintain their homes yet who find it difficult – such is the nature of housing – to move to more manageable accommodation. Grants can be a trigger for the renewal of an entire area of run down property. But grants are a random benefit which as long as they are not means tested bless the better off as well as the poor.

During 1983-84 the grants boom seems to have helped push councils over their capital spending targets; the overspending trend is continuing in 1984-85. On present evidence the Treasury will find it difficult to resist the declaration of a moratorium on all local capital

spending. This would not be the first time and it hardly represents an endorsement of the capital control system introduced in 1980: a freeze would have no good effects for private industry supplying home improvers or builders; it would make even more unfair the position of would-be home improvers now queuing for grants. Yet if there had to be a freeze, an occasion might be created for concluding (and publishing) the review of home improvements which is going on within the Department of the Environment. A first priority after these years of turbulence is to guarantee some kind of continuity in the supply of home improvement grants – possibly at a much scaled down rate (say, 50 per cent, making the state's contribution no more than that of the home owner) for "discretionary" awards. What is also needed, urgently, is some sign that the Government recognizes such grants are a poor instrument for dealing with the problem of the elderly in an aging stock. Various schemes are afoot through the building societies and private builders to facilitate the adjustment of the stock accommodating the elderly. Grants can be frozen but policy will not thereby stop the deterioration of the woodwork; only the movement of active and responsible home-owners in and through a buoyant housing market will do that.

Teaching a need for better rewards

From Mr D. Hepworth

Sir, As head of a rural primary school I take responsibility for the welfare – academic, aesthetic, social, physical – of 85 children. My school was open as usual on Wednesday last.

Like many colleagues I teach full time and do administration before and after school, working a 60-hour week, often to the detriment of my own family, who have long since become accustomed to the fact that their professionally patient father is notoriously short-tempered once he eventually gets home. Lunch at courses is not on the house.

None of this is remarkable: it is hideously commonplace. So is the fact that I am paid less than £10,000 pa. There are many teachers with greater talents and less pay who work as hard as and harder than I do.

This is not by way of complaint. I work for a good authority and love the job. No other would give the satisfaction of watching the growing virtuosity and dazzling creativity of the kids I am lucky enough to spend my days among. But while Keith Joseph may be right in asserting that supply of teachers exceeds demand – and that says a lot for our priorities as a society – what about the quality?

There seem to be fewer people of real talent coming into the profession and this is especially true of male teachers. Primary schools are staffed largely by married women who, as excellent teachers among the few, find teaching provides an adequate second salary.

Those young people who are looking for a first salary perhaps find teaching more unattractive than unattractive. How are we going to attract the quality that our children deserve while pay levels remain so low?

Solvent abuse

From Mr John Wheeler, MP for Westminster North (Conservative)

Sir, It is understandable that many people should be worried about solvent abuse. But your welcome editorial on this subject (May 5) very wisely advocated the desirability of the Government not being bounced into supporting a piece of unenforceable legislation. It may seem either desirable or popular to be seen to be doing something about a persistent social problem but solutions to complex problems of addiction are not to be found through the creation of criminal offences.

Perhaps it would be sensible to consider a few facts before the legislation bandwagon runs away with common sense:

1. There is no evidence of shopkeepers selling "glue-sniffing kits" to young people in England and Wales.
2. The same narcotic effect can be achieved by hundreds of ordinary household products, ranging from shoe polish, aerosols and paint through to glues of all kinds.
3. Some research in 1978, when 47 adolescents with a history of glue-sniffing were interviewed, revealed

that 39 per cent stole their supply of glue, 33 per cent reported that someone older bought it for them, while only 15 per cent bought the glue themselves at a shop. Thus, seeking to ban or restrict the sale of such products would be both absurd and unenforceable.

4. Controlling or banning the sale of products of a particular age group could create a much worse crime problem, namely, a profitable market for the "pusher", who would sell his wares at an exorbitant price.

The solution is to be found in partnership with social workers, and the police working together to help young people who have fallen for the habit and to emphasise the dangers. The Government, through the DHSS, has already given a lead by commissioning a film, entitled *Illusions*, about possible ways of prevention and intervention.

I hope the Home Secretary will continue to have the good sense to resist legislation. Mr Brittan should be much encouraged by your sensible leader.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHEELER,
House of Commons.
May 8.

mainly by the EEC. This programme was thus approved in detail by every government in the EEC, including the British.

Secondly, none of our 20,000 members and donors are likely to be "surprised at the organization's interpretation of its calling" as every one of them receives the same regular newsletter packed full of our project information from which Mr Scruton so selectively quotes.

They know, too, that we are not an organization "ostensibly devoted to the relief of poverty" but an internationally respected, broadly based campaigning organization (with, incidentally, thousands more liberal supporters than "Marxists") who have fought poverty here and abroad for more than 30 years.

Lastly, what did we do to deserve Mr Scruton's admonitions? As I understand his politics he favours a "rolling back of the state", "getting big government off the backs of the people", why then aim such a torrential abuse at the voluntary sector, for if not the state, who will pick up the pieces of poverty?

Which all begs the question, exactly who does qualify as suitably "charitable" for Mr Scruton's taste – registered charities 309092 and 282164 – Eton College and the Adam Smith Institute perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GALLOWAY,
General Secretary,
War on Want,
467 Caedonian Road, N7,
May 9.

Alms and the manner

From the General Secretary of War on Want

Sir, Roger Scruton's "A call to alms we must resist" (May 8) is generous, misleading and offensive. Though an erudite man, Mr Scruton has successfully misinterpreted not only the works of War on Want (though we are nevertheless flattered by his attentions) but more seriously the parables of Jesus Christ.

Fashioning Christ's authority and words into a blunt instrument with which to beat us, he utterly misses the point about that most sharply radical story, the Good Samaritan – its point being not the "apolitical", unthinking, "charity" of the Samaritan but the heartlessness of the good Samaritans who crossed over to the other side of the road rather than in the manner of the ideologues of the "New Right" today.

Of the farrago of verbal disingenuity about War on Want's work, space permits only a very few observations.

Far from, as is implied by his innuendo, assisting Namibian guerrillas secure "automatic rifles" for their shoulders, War on Want has administered only two emergency aid programmes to 70,000 desperate refugees driven by South African aggression into Angola. This aid – £2.2m in food aid and medical supplies – was funded by War on Want, other European charities, and

electorate at a referendum) are fully functioning.

The Council of Higher Education, a national board of governors which was established under the provisions of the Constitution, was formed in order to distribute and utilize the available human and material resources more efficiently among all the universities existing throughout the country, including those which are established in the less developed regions. Two thirds of the members of this council are academics.

It is actually a planning and coordinating body, having no executive power over the universities. The universities, on the other hand, enjoy full academic freedom. All appointments of teaching and administrative staff take place within the university bodies. Incidentally, not a single faculty member has been dismissed by this council.

At the present time our universities include staff members who, quite naturally, subscribe to all the various shades of legitimate political beliefs. This cannot be tolerated, however, is subversive activity and violence on the campus, no matter under what guise they are presented.

TARIK SOMER, President,
Ankara University,
Beseler,
Ankara, Turkey.

Academic freedom

From the President of Ankara University

Sir, I read the letter (March 29) from Professor Isaac Marks and his colleagues with much chagrin. I feel that it is my duty as an academic to correct the serious errors of fact and judgment displayed in that letter.

Mr M. Ozek, former Professor of Psychiatry at Istanbul University, who was sentenced to a prison term by a court of law in Istanbul, was tried under an article of the Turkish Penal Code which has been in effect since 1936, and amended in 1951. The crime attributed to Mr Ozek was not that he was a member of the Turkish Peace Association, but that he and others used this as a front organization to efface the supremacy of one social class over another and to overthrow the established political, social and economic order in the country by the use of force.

As you can see, his being a professor at Istanbul University had nothing to do with his trial or sentencing. Nevertheless, the case is not yet finalized but is being reviewed by the Court of Appeals.

All the free democratic institutions as prescribed by the Constitution of 1982 (which was approved by a 92 per cent majority of the

Music its own reward

From Miss Joanna Shaw

Sir, I have read the article in today's paper (May 11) about the report on music competitions and I strongly disagree on some points about competition in music being "... not only inappropriate but exceedingly harmful..."

I have entered several regional competitions, including the chamber music competition for schools and find them almost essential to young musicians. It not only keeps you working for something after finishing the Associated Board exams, but gives you practice, playing in front of a jury. Also, it gives you a sense of the competition you encounter in a musical career.

The report also said that competitions "... should offer prizes such as master classes..." As a result of reaching the semi-finals and finals in the chamber-music competition, each group is eligible for master classes with well known instrumentalists for a day. I have had the opportunity to take part in these classes and I have found how rewarding they can be.

I strongly feel that competitions should be supported as a great help to young musicians.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA SHAW,
13 Guilford Road,
Stoneygate, Leicester.
May 11.

Facts and faith in Christian heritage

From the Chairman of the Trinity Trust

Sir, Those of us involved in helping to organize the celebration of our Christian Heritage were sad to note the comments (May 7) made by your correspondent, Clifford Longley.

Firstly, the Archbishop of Canterbury could not have been more supportive and was not asked to do more than preach at the service at Westminster Abbey; indeed, he expressed the wish right from the start that this should be a lay initiative and asked initially the former Archbishop of York and latterly the Bishop of London to chair an all-Churches Advisory Council to help keep us on the straight and narrow. Further, he has written to all diocesan bishops in the Church of England commending this initiative.

Secondly, one fails to see what an individual's material or political circumstances, if they are true, has to do with this marvelous initiative, nor am I aware of experiencing any dislike. Indeed, I have been touched by the enthusiasm and warmth of all those who have been consulted from every denomination.

Finally, the proclamation of the Christian Gospel has never been received with total enthusiasm although it is said to find, even in this century, that it is criticized by those who could be in its vanguard.

Our Christian Heritage is a fact. It is about the Christian faith in our nation and its effect on men and women to relieve the needy and distressed. It does not need the media nor your correspondent to substantiate it.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY ROYLE, Chairman,
The Trinity Trust,
57 Duke Street, Mayfair, W1.

From Mr John M. Sutcliffe
Sir, I am general secretary of one of the Christian organizations which,

as Clifford Longley writes (May 7), has given Christian Heritage a cool reception. There are practical difficulties which limit collaboration but coolness comes from something deeper.

In conversation it was impossible to find out how the Trinity Trust defines Christian Heritage. I share with them a delight in historic buildings and heroic Christians from the past. But is that the sum total of Christian heritage?

Our Christian heritage has a spiritual motivation and includes people, ideas and movements. But was it ever envisaged that, say, the Christian's contribution to the beginnings of the Labour Party, or the particularly Methodist contribution to the development of trades unionism would be dealt with?

And if philanthropists from the past are included, why not modern mass philanthropy such as will be evident shortly in Christian Aid Week; and if Christian Aid, what about the serious Christian political concerns of the World Development Movement or Church Action on Poverty? One does not have to be committed to any of these movements to recognize their place in our Christian heritage.

If the Trinity Trust had given more thought to its brief perhaps a more humble, less all-embracing, title might have been chosen. As it is, there are too many gaps and apparent political neutrality gives a strong hint of political bias.

Our Christian heritage is plural. In not indicating their recognition of this the trust have made it very difficult for the churches and other Christians of good will to support their initiative.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. SUTCLIFFE,
General Secretary,
Christian Education Movement,
1 Chester House,
Penge Lane, N10.
May 8.

Giving the lie to liars

From the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, Mr Ferdinand Mount, in his article, "The flourishing art of lying" (April 30), enjoins us "to recover a sense of human cunning". He bemoans the development of what he regards as a creeping ingenueness in society evinced by a reluctance to acknowledge barefaced lying and a need to find some alternative explanation in psychopathological or other terms. He regards psychiatrists as especially gullible in this context.

When a mentally disturbed individual commits a crime and tells lies, these three elements may or may not be interrelated. All the doctors who have seen Peter Sutcliffe before and since his trial are convinced he is suffering from a serious mental disorder. His crime was acknowledged and the court found him to be responsible for his actions. He had no awareness of his illness and was averse to the notion of admission to Broadmoor, soft option or not.

The fact that he has now been transferred there from prison vindicates the psychiatric opinions and, most important of all, provides the opportunity for treatment under safeguards of the Mental Health Act 1983.

The majority of psychiatrists are actually hard-headed realists who do

not seek to explain away or excuse criminal behaviour. They are asked difficult questions by society through the courts about responsibility for actions and its diminution through illness. The paramount concern is to offer treatment to a sick person and in rare instances to impose treatment whether or not that individual is a criminal, or a liar, or both.

Yours faithfully,
KEN RAWNSLEY, President,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Tavistock Square, SW1.
May 2.

From Mr Nicholas Elliott
Sir, I refer to Dr H. B. Gibson's letter of May 2 about the polygraph. With respect to him, he misses the essential point, which is that this contrivance is not so much a detector as a deterrent.

"His degree of reliability as a detector is questionable. But Mr Pritch, for example, the traitor in GHQ, is reported to have remarked to the effect that if he had known he would be subjected to polygraph tests he would not have had the guts to betray his country. Others who may be similarly tempted may think likewise.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ELLIOTT,
The Garden House,
Stanford Dingley,
Reading,
Berkshire.
May 2.

Straw burning

From Mr S. A. Gourlay

Sir, Mr Ian Macdonald (May 7) wonders why the model by-laws governing straw and stubble burning forbid farmers from burning at weekends. The reason for this, as far as the requirement to cease lighting fires one hour before sunset, is quite simply consideration for the general public.

The clause requiring an hour's notice to the fire brigade, the district council, or both, is optional. If the fire brigade in any particular county conclude that they will have difficulty in handling the calls, and the information will be of little practical value, they will decline. Equally, no district council should require its own officers to be notified unless they have the means to record and use the information gathered.

Our message to district councils is that the new model by-laws are considerably more stringent than their predecessors and offer a real chance of stamping out the irresponsibility which has marred recent harvests. We urge them, if they have

not already done so, to adopt by-laws in line with the model by-laws as soon as possible and, having done so, to enforce them.

Our message to members of the public is that, if their council adopts and enforces the new by-laws, they should be able to prevent a recurrence of the difficulties of previous years. The NFU wants to cause the minimum inconvenience to the general public and wants those farmers who flagrantly breach the code to be prosecuted and heavily punished.

Our message to farmers is that if they do not get it right this time, they deserve all the fines meted out to them and they face the prospect of even stricter controls or complete prohibition.

We accept that we are on trial and have only one more chance.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON GOURLAY,
Deputy President,
The National Farmers' Union,
Agriculture House,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
May 9.

Music its own reward

From Miss Joanna Shaw

Sir, I have read the article in today's paper (May 11) about the report on music competitions and I strongly disagree on some points about competition in music being "... not only inappropriate but exceedingly harmful..."

I have entered several regional competitions, including the chamber music competition for schools and find them almost essential to young musicians. It not only keeps you working for something after finishing the Associated Board exams, but gives you practice, playing in front of a jury. Also, it gives you a sense of the competition you encounter in a musical career.

The report also said that competitions "... should offer prizes such as master classes..." As a result of reaching the semi-finals and finals in the chamber-music competition, each group is eligible for master classes with well known instrumentalists for a day. I have had the opportunity to take part in these classes and I have found how rewarding they can be.

I strongly feel that competitions should be supported as a great help to young musicians.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA SHAW,
13 Guilford Road,
Stoneygate, Leicester.
May 11.

Off pitch

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Robinson

Sir, In the feature on polo in your Friday Page today (May 4) it is said that the word chukka is derived from the Urdu word *chugan*, meaning small ball, polo itself being from Tibetan *phul*, a ball.

The thousands of us who served in pre-partition India would, I am sure, agree that it is from the Hindustani or Urdu *chakar*, as spelt in official Roman Urdu, or *chukker*, as spelt in Anglo-Urdu colloquial usage as well as in the game of polo in those days. To make a chukker is to proceed roughly in a circle and, in our slang, "I'm going for a chukker" meant a stroll or ride around, or even a modest reconnaissance.

Since polo was introduced to Europe from central Asia, and reaching the semi-finals and finals in the chamber-music competition, each group is eligible for master classes with well known instrumentalists for a day. I have had the opportunity to take part in these classes and I have found how rewarding they can be.

I strongly feel that competitions should be supported as a great help to young musicians.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. ROBINSON,
The Old Rectory,
Beckingshale,
Pewsey,
Wiltshire.
May 4.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Too impressionable for his own good

Henry Lamb 1883-1960
Manchester City Art
Gallery

Reginald Hallward
1858-1948

Christopher Wood

Robert Gibbings and
Viva Talbot

Michael Parkin

Muirhead Bone 1876-
1953

Garton and Cooke

Henry Lamb painted two of the most familiar twentieth-century British portraits, the Tate's willowy image of Lytton Strachey, draped over a chair and down across the floor, and the much-reproduced 1930 Evelyn Waugh as young intellectual with a pipe, a pint of beer and a red tie - not to mention one of the Imperial War Museum's most memorable First World War canvases, *Irish Troops in the Judean Hills Surprised by a Turkish Bombardment*, viewed in vertiginous perspective from above. He also figures in many Bloomsbury books as one of the succession of handsome, unresponsive young men with whom Strachey fell in love, and flits across the lives of more colourful characters like Augustus John, Lady Ottoline Morrell and Stanley Spencer. Why then is he not better remembered? Most satisfyingly, the large retrospective at Manchester City Art Gallery until June 16 tells us exactly why.

There is no question but that Lamb was a very accomplished painter, almost wherever one looks (except, perhaps, for the more academic works of the Thirties and Forties, which the show plays down), there are striking and memorable images, pieces of vivid and economi-

cal draughtsmanship, and a really painterly approach to the medium. The problem comes in finding a unifying style or character which might bind all the individually admirable works together into a coherent oeuvre. Even the three specific pictures I have already mentioned, all of them in the show, might have been painted by three different people, and the show as a whole offers a bewildering multiplicity of styles. Or finally not so bewildering, since one soon catches on to the basic fact that Lamb was the most impressionable of artists. Work out what painter he was closest to at any given period, and you will be able to guess immediately in what style he will be painting.

The very earliest work includes drawings of London landmarks which might have been done by Muirhead Bone - very understandable and acceptable from someone in his early twenties. Shortly after Lamb had come down to London from Manchester he fell in with Augustus John, and the influence extends from details of technique to the types of women he liked to paint (even, sometimes, the very same models). Around 1910 Lamb went to paint in Brittany, and there Gauguin and the Nabis inevitably crop up, though John takes over again when he returns to England. Around 1911-12 there is an outbreak of Symbolism, and the Tate's *Phantasy* looks as though he has been struck by Picasso's Blue and Rose periods. At the end of the First World War he got to know Spencer and for a few years there is a strong influence from that quarter, as in *George Kennedy and Family* (1921). Even in his late sixties, the last painting in the show, *Hot Fever* of 1950, shows him looking at life through the eyes of yet another artist friend, Edward Ardizzone, whom he had met early in the Second World War.

All very curious, and rather worrying. Lamb was a good painter - there is no denying it. And yet history has not been quite arbitrary in expunging him from its pages, even if it has retained one or two individual paintings. Earlier he would creditably have used the visual

language of the tribe, and have had his own small niche. It was his misfortune to have been born into a generation which would have more languages to choose from than ever before, and so to have had his indecision about what he wanted to say so fatally exposed by his indecision about the language in which to say it.

The obscurity in which Reginald Hallward has stayed for the last 75 years or so is not as difficult to explain. Even the height of his fame - as an illustrator of vaguely mystical tendencies in the 1890s and 1900s, when they grew under every bush - was not very high, and he made the tactical error of living on and on, rumbling about his own neglect, until 1948, when he was 90. If the name sounds vaguely familiar, it is no doubt only because Wilde, whom he knew somewhat, apparently appropriated his surname for the painter in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, in much the same spirit of fantasy, no doubt, as he appropriated John Gray's for his hero. All the same, if Hallward is undeniably a minor artist, he proved in the show at the Christopher Wood Gallery in Motcomb Street until May 26 to be a minor artist of a much more distinctive and interesting variety than the more ambitious and visible Lamb.

Quite early on in the 1890s Hallward worked out his own individual style for his illustrations, making much play with intricate patterns of conventionalized leaves and branches, often enclosing mysterious magical or pastoral scenes and filling every available inch of space with busy but controlled detail. This style is to be observed also in his ceramics (rather attractively coloured, these) and what one takes to be his earlier oil paintings (the chronology is a bit obscure). Later he branched out into stained-glass design, but hopes that he might prove to be a sort of English Harry Clarke as soon as that, since the results, though attractive, are relatively conventional. On the other hand Hallward's later paintings, mostly of pregnant wooded slopes and apocalyptic skyscrapers over jaggedly symbolic mountains, are really strange

and have a sort of strangled intensity and tortured paint-surface which make one wonder whether some of the bitterness which comes out in his later writings did not find here an unconscious outlet.

A few doors along, at the Michael Parkin Gallery until Friday, there are more rediscoveries in early twentieth-century British art. The show is entitled, in rather unwieldy fashion, Robert Gibbings and Viva Talbot and Seven British Printmakers of the 1920s and 1930s, and that is exactly what it covers. Not, I suppose, that Gibbings needs rediscovery - though, since his name has been misspelled on the sculpture right by the entrance to the V & A's Henry Cole Wing ever since that opened, perhaps I am wrong - but do you know who Viva Talbot was, and how familiar are you with the work of Lill Tschudi or Ethel Gabain and her husband John Copley? Viva Talbot was one of Gibbings's more talented pupils, and her landscape wood-engravings evince confident technique and impart a personal tinge to the general period flavour. Lill Tschudi was one of the most striking practitioners of the coloured linocut, her work bursting with a most extraordinary dynamism, and John Copley comes up with perhaps the most striking single image of the show in his coloured lithograph *The Wash Room* (of the Edwardian Empire, Leicester Square), which anticipates and matches the urban night-life scenes of the American Ashcan School.

Since I mentioned Muirhead Bone in connection with Henry Lamb's early work, I had best mention also that there is, for anyone who may not be quite sure what Bone represents, an unexpectedly sizable show of his prints and drawings at Garton and Cooke, 9 Lancaster Court (off New Bond Street), and perfectly findable if you look) until June 1. Most of the most typical etched images are of buildings often in the course of construction or restoration, though Bone sometimes turns from city streets to the remoter parts of the Highlands for his subject matter, and often likes to have some sea visible somewhere.

John Russell Taylor



Under the spell of Augustus John - and of John's sister-in-law Edie McNeill: Lamb's 1911 portrait

Television
Occupied people

Television is doing its best to brief us for the South African Prime Minister Mr P. W. Botha's visit. Central has already homed in on the activities of BOSS (Bureau of State Security) in London and, last night, BBC's Third Eye series began with *Namibia - Africa's Last Colony*.

The six programmes in this series do not attempt balance; they present a viewpoint. Last night's was that of Nora Chase, director of education for the Namibia Council of Churches, who spoke out impressively, with eye-witness support, against torture, exploitation and the continued control of her country by South Africa.

The South Africans, whose mandate in Namibia was terminated in 1966 and whose presence there was declared illegal five years later by the International Court of Justice, showed their sensitivity about people making films without permission by slinging the producer Paul Hannam and the film crew into jail and later deporting them. Apparently, they had just about finished.

The Namibians live shabbily in a country rich in minerals, particularly uranium. Their young men are conscripted to fight against those who are waging a guerrilla war to free the country. Their standard of living is low. Black life expectancy is 50 years; white, 70. The black infant mortality rate is 12 times the white. Education, said Nora Chase, was compulsory for Whites only and seven times as much money was spent on white children as black.

Ethnic divisions had been exploited, she said, and when independence came, as she believed it must, the country would face a considerable task of reconciliation in addition to everything else. The film showed the disadvantages of the conditions under which it was shot but Mrs Chase's sincerity compensated well for them.

On Channel 4, Granada's *Scully*, written by Alan Bleasdale and directed by Les Chatfield, started a seven-part run, gaining interest as it proceeded. Scully is a world-wise, 16-year-old Liverpudlian in his last year at school, a relief no doubt for his tutors. His ambition is to be a footballer; his idol is Kenny Dalglish, who appears to materialize in Scully's daily life, adding to his general alienation. Mr Dalglish played himself.

Scully has already been a successful radio series, novel and television play. Here he is played by Andrew Schofield, who looks anything between 16 and 35 but who carried it off well.

Stephen Pettitt

Dennis Hackett

Rock

Echo and the
Bunnymen

St George's Hall,
Liverpool

Echo and the Bunnymen's first home-town date in over a year was far more than a simple concert. In typically off-beat fashion the band and their adventurous manager, Bill Drummond, had organized what they called "A Crystal Day - a day's worth of happenings in Liverpool". It was quite an event, commencing with a re-creation of Brian's Diner, a local landmark, a visit to the Anglican Cathedral, where the organist Ian Tracy demonstrated his art, a ferry trip across the Mersey and finally a concert in St George's Hall. The last great group to test out the acoustics in this magnificent Victorian building were the Beatles.

The evening show was divided into three sections with the Bunnymen's sets punctuated by the Dancers of the Pagoda of 100 Harmonies, representing the local Chinese community. The vitality of the day gave the show a special flavour. The band played at

their peak, visiting their older songs with fresh enthusiasm and setting about their new material - from the *Ocean Rain* LP - with an obvious delight.

Emphasizing the play-at-home feeling, the Bunnymen had installed a settee, coffee table and wardrobe on stage. The effect of watching a group surrounded by furniture was rather more funny than surreal. The mystery was provided by the music. Stunning electric performances of favourites like "Read It in Books" and "Do It Clean", brought out the power and stubborn romance of the vocalists. Ian McCulloch's convictions while the 12-string purity of "Pictures on My Wall" or the Indian mystic effects of "The Cutter" revealed their cerebral rather than physical attraction.

Of the newer songs "Yo Yo Man", "Nocturnal Me" and the hard rockers "Never Stop" and "Angels and Devils" confirmed the impression of a band on a peak. The guitarist Will Sergeant abandoned himself to the occasion without losing his precision, all the rhythms fired first time and the old hall echoed with a sense of importance again.

Max Bell

Monte Carlo PO/
Foster

Festival Hall/Radio 3

A certain versatility is required of Monte Carlo Philharmonic players in their obligations at home to opera and ballet as well as to concerts, and this was evident in several aspects of Sunday night's programme conducted by Lawrence Foster.

He began with the Symphony in C by Bizet, in a brisk and beguiling performance that was a reminder of his teenage skill. Although I should have preferred a formal repeat of the first movement's opening to balance the rest of it, and a crisper attack from the strings to propel the finale, the playing was of a style consistent with the music's charm and spirit. The first oboist took a deserved rest afterwards for his smoothly sustained solo in the Adagio, and the woodwind instruments in general were notably fine.

Most of them had expressive contributions to make to Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, in which Tamas Vassary was a soloist whose interpretation of

this often equivocal work, poised between Stravinsky and Gershwin, inclined more towards the former. That is not to say that he denied the music's blues-inflected qualities, but he did resist them becoming over-romantic at the expense of other aspects.

The long piano solo that opens the slow movement was played with a sensibility that avoided waywardness while remaining flexible in expressive character. Here and in a somewhat deadpan approach to the finale, where added rhythmic inflexions would have been desirable, the conductor obtained a well-judged balance of keyboard and orchestra and blend of their colours.

There was more Ravel in his enchanting and enchanted *Mother Goose Suite*, but this had a variable sense of its fantasy and occasionally lethargic rhythm. The Suite No 2 from Roussel's *Bacchus et Ariane*, though a less imaginative work in every respect and more dependent on its dance associations, was given a bold and energetic performance that showed the full orchestra to advantage.

Noël Goodwin

London debuts

Miniature charms

The Irish guitarist Catherine Thom has a captivating platform personality, which is entirely complementary to her refined musicality. Undoubtedly it is the miniature that is her *metier*, and in two Galliards by Dowland she was able to create an air of irreproachable serenity. Miss Thom's technique is sure, without being brilliant, and a lack of power diminished the impact of Bach's Chaconne, with a resulting tendency to monotony. Of the larger works it was Sor's *Gran Solo* that was memorable. Its quaint combination of Weberian gallantry and Mozartian economy of texture was portrayed with charm.

George Ewart has proved his worth as winner of last year's Sascha Lessner award, though his violin playing is little more than highly competent on the strength of his recent recital. The Bach unaccompanied suites are the touchstone of the repertoire, and Ewart's account of the G minor Sonata revealed both strengths and weaknesses. A full tone and command of the notes gave the music a certain solidity, but why was there such little variety in dynamic shading? The recital also featured the first public performance of Carl Davis's variations on a Polish Beggar's Song.

A fine American pianist, Robert Taub, on the other hand, definitely deserves international success. He is a superb craftsman and his luscious sound, impeccable balance in chord-playing and shimmering pedal effects serve to express a cultivated conception of the music. Having presented the European premiere of Milton Babbitt's unwieldily fussy piece *Canonical Form* (1983), Taub completed his programme with Chopin's 24 Preludes. Rarely have these pieces been played with such meticulously varied

poetry may not be his forte, but I shall not forget his magical delicacy in No 7, the tiny A major, nor his lightning dash through No 16, the B flat minor.

The violinist Viktoria Mullova won first prize at the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition, though she has since left her native Russia. Standing in at short notice, she gave a gripping account of the Sibelius Concerto with the RPO under the aptly Finnish Okko Kamu. She established an elegant poise from the very beginning. Never was one led to marvel at mere technique, for she managed to instil the work with both lyricism and, conversely, agitated bravura. There was more of Finland's sunshine here than its ice, and Mullova's viola-like tones on the low strings were especially moving in the slow movement. Even in the most thorny passages of the finale she kept perfect articulation, though there could have been greater rhythmic freshness here.

It was a privilege to hear Paata Burchuladze's programme of Russian songs and Verdi arias. He is a Soviet bass with a voice of colossal proportions, and will be appearing in *Aida* at Covent Garden next month. Entirely convincing in the melancholic sentiment of Rachmaninov and Mussorgsky, he was also able to communicate a galvanizing sense of drama in operatic arias. His resonant fortissimos of exceptional timbre never possessed a hint of bluster, and he has a security that is all the more effective because of his extrovert projection. Gershwin's "I got plenty of 'n' win" as an encore was terrifically funny delivered in a thick Russian accent, and Burchuladze engagingly shared the humour.

James

Methuen-Campbell

Concerts

Nash Ensemble
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Nash Ensemble can always be relied upon for a stimulating programme, and their Smetana celebration (the composer, I had almost forgotten, died 100 years ago) was no exception. Only the vigorously fresh G minor Piano Trio, given an admirably clean and fervent performance, could be described as at all familiar.

For the rest, the oddest work had to be *Der Fischer*, based on Goethe's poem, and composed for the unlikely combination of speaker, harmonium, harp and string quintet. Here, beneath Felicity Palmer's tastefully re-

strained recitation, the instruments wove atmospheric arpeggios around sustained chords, creating a texture that strongly resembled the opening of *Das Rheingold* (first performed in the same year, 1869, that this piece was written).

Miss Palmer also gave the five *Evening Songs* of 1879, which showed Smetana as a gifted miniaturist. Whether in the despair of "Mně zdá se" or the rustic joy of "Hej, jaká radost v kole" Miss Palmer sang with her usual rich intensity, and Ian Brown's piano accompaniment also served the composer well. He shaded the harmonies with equal subtlety in the two violin pieces *Z domoviny* (From my home),

where Marcia Crayford's violin line was well polished and alive to each and every change of nuance.

In the three piano pieces we heard from the collection *Sny* (Dreams) Smetana seems to be in a more expansive mood. Although Mr Brown's empathy with this music was obvious, he is very much an ensemble player, and a more exaggerated manner would not have come amiss here. *Macbeth* and the *Witches*, a rather grandiose piece of programme music composed in 1859 and quite obviously owing much to Liszt, was nevertheless played by him with colours ablaze.

Stephen Pettitt

Dennis Hackett

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 Same price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities, " by tender.

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1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 26

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Edinburgh looks down on financial supermarkets

The advantage of Edinburgh as an alternative financial centre is, or should be, that it allows a sobriety and impartiality of view difficult to achieve in the City's carnival atmosphere.

Perhaps that is why Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, chose Edinburgh to make his famous keynote speech that has so heavily influenced the speech and pace of changes new taking place among financial institutions. But if he expected the financial community north of the border to take a lead in the formation of new financial conglomerates he was wrong.

Generally, the Scots disapprove of the development of financial supermarkets. Some go so far as to say that in 10 years' time they will be beset by a disaster. At Ivory & Sims, Charlotte Square's biggest fund management group, director Mr Ian Rushbrook, reckons that with the possible exception of the big joint stock banks which have a history of personal management, the new supermarkets will founder on conflict of interest, personal infighting and lack of big group management experience.

At Baillie, Gifford, senior partner Mr Angus Miller, says he has never seen a Chinese wall without a grapevine trailing over it. He believes that this could eventually work to the advantage of the independent fund management groups. Mr Graeme MacLennan at Edinburgh Fund Managers agrees. "These changes will enhance the attractions of the independent and impartial house."

Mr Angus Grossart and his fellow director Mr Peter Stevenson, at Noble Grossart, Edinburgh's leading merchant bank, also think that people fall out from the big groups will far outweigh their advantage in offering a range of financial services. "In financial services it is quality you are paying for. In a people business it is impossible to control quality as you can on a production line", according to Mr Stevenson.

Likewise Mr Bill Morrison, head of the Scottish Life Assurance Company and now chairman for a two-year stint at the Associated Scottish Life Office, has deep reservations about the current trend and doubts about how much longer it will be allowed to continue. He has more experience than most for it was his company that was forced to mutualize to fight off the raid on its previous proprietary structure by Slater, Walker.

"I do not rule out the possibility that one of the mutuals here will take a minority shareholding in a stock broker, but that is not the same thing as forming a financial supermarket", he says.

One of the first to disagree with these productions is Mr Charles Winter, managing director of the Royal Bank of Scotland and widely tipped to succeed Mr Sir Procter as chief executive of the group that also takes in William & Glyn's.

"It is difficult to stand back from the trend", is his view. "We could be put at a competitive disadvantage if we ignore this. In some respects I regret what is happening but you cannot bury your head in the sand."

For the moment the ring fence erected around the Royal Bank on Scotland regional grounds by the Monopolies Commission two and a half years ago, remains in place, etc though Mr Norman Tebbit might choose to remove it soon. The bank might then prove an excellent platform on which to build an Edinburgh-based financial supermarket.

Bonds shadow over equities

The bond markets, particularly the American, continued to dominate investment thinking yesterday, on both sides of the Atlantic. It was again evident in London, at the start of a new Stock Exchange account when spirits if good tend to be at their highest, that equities will find it hard to make progress while fixed-interest markets are clouded by doubt, or in the American context, gloom.

The Times 1984 Budget briefing

The briefing will take place at the Dorchester Hotel on May 22, with myself as chairman. The principal speaker is Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who will explain the strategic thinking behind the Chancellor's radical tax reforms. Information may be obtained and bookings made by telephoning 01-405 3501 (24 hours).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unilever profits up

● UNILEVER, the foods and detergent group, has reported pre-tax profits of £186m for its first quarter to March 31 this year, up from £137m. Turnover increased from £3,187m to £3,548m.

Tempos, page 22

● BREWER Mathew Brown of Blackburn is paying a higher interim dividend of 1.75p (1.5p), after a 10% rise to March 31 of £2.7m (£2.5m). Sales rose from £17.7m to £19.2m.

Tempos, page 22

● CRYSTALITE HOLDINGS announced plans for the £25m sale of the fine china businesses it acquired after the Royal Worcester takeover last year.

Tempos, page 22

The most significant event (or rather non-event) in the gilt-edged market was the decision not to cut the tap price of the 9½ per cent Treasury Convertible, now virtually unsaleable at more than two points below its issue price.

This may show tremendous coolness under fire by the authorities. What it actually suggested to the market was an extension of the current uncertainty until the Government Broker provides a positive indication of the kind of yield basis the Bank of England considers appropriate in current circumstances.

Speculation about the May money supply figures is now even more fraught than it might have been if the Government Broker had dropped his price.

As bold as ever, Phillips & Drew, the broker, is forecasting a rise in sterling M3 of perhaps as much as two per cent, which would be unusually, and thus disturbingly, high.

Such an increase in domestic money supply occurring against a background of rising American interest rates would surely make huge holes in the already tatty-looking theory that British interest rates have been "decoupled" from US rates and are free to pursue an independent course.

What might change perceptions if not, immediately, the picture itself would be a rise in the Federal Reserve's discount rate. This is changed but rarely it went up half a point to nine per cent last month, but when it does, the signal is seldom misinterpreted. The talk of another increase shortly is hot and strong.

Taking account of home truths

Equity withdrawal - the amount by which mortgage debt rises above the increase in the value of owner-occupied housing - has recently become a buzz-phrase for an age-old practice. When house-owners die and their heirs sell up, capital leaks out of house finance when people change houses, they often increase their mortgage by more than the price difference to pay the costs of moving and possibly keep some cash.

When all this became a concept, dignified by Bank of England estimates that net withdrawals had mushroomed from an average £500m a year in the late sixties to perhaps £5.6 billion in 1982, two issues were raised. First, that this amounted to an enormous loophole to abuse tax-relief on house purchase. Second, that the building societies were thus feeding huge amounts into personal credit system out with the normal Bank of England monetary control mechanism.

The Building Societies Association has now responded, with mixed success. In its latest bulletin, the BSA estimates that equity withdrawals amounted to £6.3 billion, or 43 per cent of new mortgage finance, in 1983, but that this represents a slowing down in the growth of the practice and, in any case, about £1 billion would be accounted for by the costs of moving house. Much of the rest is due to dissipation of house finance on death, an inevitable feature of the system and one that is bound to grow as an ever-larger percentage of the population become owner-occupiers.

But the BSA is on weak ground when it claims, that building societies are merely intermediaries between individual savers and borrowers and, therefore, "such activity has no major implication for the economy as a whole".

As the BSA elsewhere explains, societies' lending is not merely dependent on the level of saving. Their lending actually generates saving, via equity withdrawal, some of which ends up as extra building society deposits. In other words, there is a building society multiplier on the same lines as credit generation, through the banks. To the extent that this boosts house prices, it also raises the whole credit base of the personal sector, as was obvious during the early seventies.

In the recent past this may have performed a useful role in feeding a consumer-led recovery, but did so to some extent by thwarting formal monetary policy. It is no accident that PSL2, the money measure that includes building societies, has been gaily breaching all the targets so carefully managed within the conventional banking system.

But that happy chance should not blind us to the plain truth that the societies are a significant force in credit creation and authorities seeking to control credit would be extremely foolish to see house finances as an independent system that can be left out of the general credit equation.

Institutions take firm line on boycott of Reuters issue

By Philip Robinson

Leading pension funds and insurance companies were standing firm last night on their decision to boycott the underwriting of Reuters Holding, which publishes details of its stock market debut tomorrow.

However, that does not necessarily preclude the funds from buying Reuters shares in the markets once dealings start on June 4.

The boycott arose because Reuters' directors insisted on a two-tier share structure which gives the shares being sold to the public less favourable voting rights than those being held by Reuters' existing newspaper owners.

The National Association of Pension Funds and the British Insurance Association, whose members represent the giants of the industry, urged members for boycott the issue altogether, but there are signs that whether or not they do so will be an

investment decision rather than one on the principle, one share one vote.

Mr Geoffrey Musson, chairman of the pension fund's investor protection committee, said: "We are very happy with our situation and the response we have had from our members."

However, even if the large investment advisers fail to take some of the underwriting, merchant banks may put it through other parts of their business.

Bankers close to the issue were confident last night that the British part of it - about half the 35 per cent being offered - would be taken up without a problem.

They will know for sure this morning when the issue goes on offer to potential underwriters. The minimum tender price was fixed last night and will be confirmed early today.



Geoffrey Musson: "Happy with the response"

It is expected that the minimum price in London will be 180p but the level will be heavily influenced by American thinking.

Reuters will be the first new issue to be floated simultaneously in London and New

York. Once the prospectus is issued tomorrow a "red herring" the US equivalent of a prospectus - will be put out in New York which is designed to establish what the take-up rate of the shares will be on Wall Street. It will run for a week.

Last day for submitting applications for the London half will be later than that, allowing investors here to gauge from the American response, at what price they should pitch their tender offers. When dealings start the two prices will have to come out roughly equal.

The issue itself is likely to value the news and business information agency at between £800m and £1 billion, but the boycott has meant that the proportion of shares to be offered to the public has been scaled down.

Originally it was thought the issue might raise £300m, but it is now likely to raise £200m.

London and Liverpool Trust collapses

By William Kay

London and Liverpool Trust, the office equipment group, yesterday agreed to the appointment of a receiver after the failure of a rescue bid, believed to have been led by the entrepreneur Mr Michael Ashcroft.

Dealings in the shares were suspended at 7.45p down 2½p. They are almost certainly worthless.

The company has debts of £25m, of which £7m is owed to Barclays Bank. The rest is due to the finance houses which arranged leases for the ill-fated Telelector pub video equipment through a complex variety of loans, leases and cross-guarantees. Some of this will be recoverable.

Barclays is also expected to recoup some of its losses, as some of the LLT subsidiaries are attractive to outside buyers. However, some franchisees may be called in by the franchisors as a result of the group receiver-ship.

London and Liverpool Trust's shares were among the strongest on the stock market in 1982, rising from the equivalent of 25p to 350p in six months amidst soaring hopes for the success of Telelector.

But confidence in the system shrank after reports of strong selling methods. Orders dwindled, and last December the sales operation was closed.

The company said in a statement last night that it "regrets to announce" it has asked Barclays Bank to appoint a receiver.

Mr Nicholas Lyle of the accountants Thornton Baker was appointed receiver last night.

Banks face holdings disclosure

Merchant banks will be obliged to disclose large hidden shareholdings built up in companies by using discretionary funds under their management, under an agreement with the Council for the Securities Industry to be announced within the next week.

It has taken the CSI more than a year to reach the agreement and it was only recently that the Accepting Houses Committee, which represents the big merchant banks, conceded the principle.

The problem first arose when funds managed by S. G. Warburg built up holdings of as much as 18 per cent in the twin Dundee investment trusts, First Scottish American Trust and the Northern American Trust, without disclosing the stakes and then used them to put pressure on the management to utilize the trusts.

The action brought a swift complaint by the Scottish investment trusts community to the Bank of England.

Mercantile to buy Jessel for £23m

By Wayne Lintott

Mercantile House, the international financial services group, surprised the City yesterday by announcing an agreement to acquire the discount house Jessel, Toyne & Gillett, and also a 29.9 per cent stake in the leading London stockbroker Laing & Cruickshank.

Mercantile has an option to acquire full control of Laing when Stock Exchange rules permit.

These agreements come after a £29m takeover of another discount house, Alexander, last February. Mercantile is paying the equivalent of £23.8m for Jessel and has placed a value on Laing of £23m.

Although Laing & Cruickshank is a private partnership and as such does not disclose its profits, the terms of the deal were evaluated on the basis of a price earnings ratio of 11 against 1984's attributable profits, showing that the firm made £2.3m last year.

The 29.9 per cent stake is valued at £7.5m and that will be

paid in cash to Laing's 54 partners who retain the money personally. The remainder is being paid over a period of years, thus helping to insure the loyalty of staff in a competitive environment.

The merger of Jessel with Alexander, to trade under the name of Alexander Discount, will create the third largest discount house in London.

Mr John Barksdale, chairman of Mercantile, said that the deals would not seriously dilute earnings. "Under various permutations, poor performance on the discount or stock markets would only result in a down-grading of 0.3 per cent, so overall the effect is neutral."

Mr Barksdale now felt that Mercantile had laid suitable foundations for substantial growth in London, and would now be concentrating its expansion efforts in the Pacific basin area, particularly Tokyo, where the group would like to acquire a stock broker.

Making most of change, page 23

Tebbit statement 'soon'

By Our City Staff

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is considering making a public statement within two months on the Government's attitude on the future policing of the City.

Until recently, it was expected that the first statement would come in a White Paper, produced in the Autumn. Two months ago ministers were

talking about obtaining views before the summer recess.

But two weeks ago, Mr Tebbit received that last of the responses to Professor Laurence Gower's review of Investor Protection. They were divided on whether self-regulation or a Commission - which may form part of the Trade Department - would be the best way to control the City.

It had been hoped that the succession would be agreed at the meeting later this week of ministers from the OECD's 24 member countries. But none of the candidates is assured of majority support.

The US Administration is reportedly opposing Mr Lalonde, the Canadian Finance Minister, and M Jean-Claude Paye, director of economic and financial affairs at the French Foreign Ministry.

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Mr Lalonde, the Canadian Finance Minister, and M Jean-Claude Paye, director of economic and financial affairs at the French Foreign Ministry.

Tokyo index falls again

The Tokyo stock market's Nikkei Dow Jones index fell 270.53 points yesterday, its third daily fall of more than 100 points in a week. The index now stands at 10,563.34, compared with a peak of 11,190.17 reached on May 4.

The immediate causes were cited as growing concern over higher US interest rates, the weakness of the yen against the dollar and Wall Street's fall last Friday.

Meanwhile, continuing uncertainties over the political future of Hongkong took the Hang Seng index down by another 19.60 to 908.72.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 index: 1082.4 up 3.7.
High: 1083; low: 1073.3
FT index: 874.0 up 3.0
FT Gilts: 79.63 down 0.12
FT All Share: N/A
Bargains: 25.057
Datastream USA Leaders Index: 114.56 down 0.47
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1147.72 down 9.58
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,563.34 down 270.53
Amsterdam: 177.5 up 0.4
Sydney: AO Index 739.1 down 8.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1003.4 down 12.3
Brussels: General Index 154.45 up 0.15
Paris: CAC Index 175.1 down 12.3
Zurich: SBA General 312.40 down 2.80

CURRENCIES

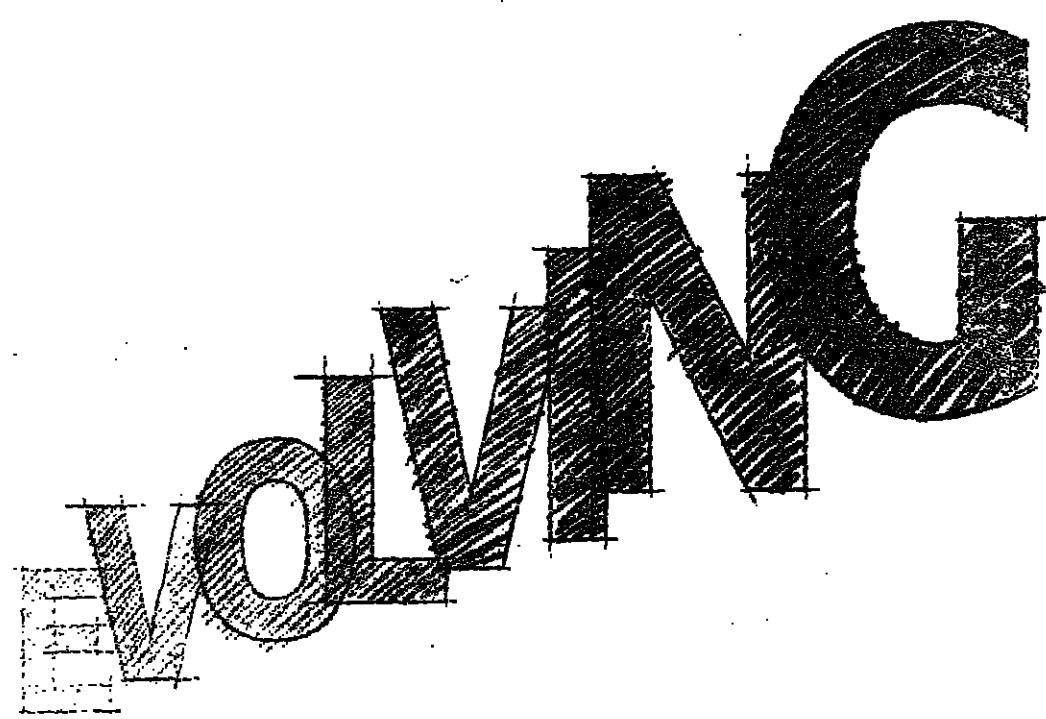
STERLING LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.388 up 20pts
DM 80.1 up 0.1
DM 3.8275 down 0.0125
FrF 11.7525 down 0.0375
Yen 321.00 up 2.0
Dollar Index 131.7 unchanged
DM 2.7540 down 0.0212
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3880
Dollar DM 2.7540
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 80.585081
SDR 80.751345

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9.8%
Finance houses base rate 9
Discount market loans week fixed 7½
3 month interbank 9% - 9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 12 - 11½
3 month DM 6½ - 5½
3 month FrF 12½ - 12%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.50
Fed funds 10¼
Treasury long bond 97½ - 97%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period April 4 to May 1, 1983 inclusive: 8.934 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$371.20 pm \$372.55
close \$372.75 - 373.25
(\$268.50 - 269)
New York (latest): \$373.00



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Sell-off safeguard could undervalue share debut

Jaguar's price of protection

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The creation of special classes of shares to prevent a foreign car maker winning control of Jaguar when it is floated as a public company this summer could depress the sale price.

It is that happens, speculators will "buy in" cheaply and make a killing later when the share price rises to reflect Jaguar's proper valuation and potential as a substantial profits earner.

This is one of several possibilities outlined in a 120-page Investors' Guide by Professor Krish Bhaskar of the University of East Anglia Motor Industry Research Unit.

The unit used a financial computer model of Jaguar against 12 different assumptions to suggest that a realistic value for the company is £250m and that last year's profit before

tax of £55m will increase to £63m this year, and more than treble within five years.

Prof Bhaskar says that a takeover by one of the multi-nationals (General Motors and Daimler-Benz have shown interest) could lead to reduced British production and change Jaguar into little more than "an empty brand name".

Industry sources said last night that devising ways of preventing a foreign "takeover" which are acceptable to the City and institutional investors in particular is one reason the Government has still not accepted BL's corporate plan for 1984. It was submitted more than seven months ago and contains the state-owned motor group's own proposals for privatizing Jaguar.

Ironically, the report then goes on to reveal Jaguar's new model plans in greater depth than has hitherto been made public.

It suggests that the new XJ40 planned for launching next year will be 400 to 800 pounds lighter than the present XJ6/12 range, slightly shorter and contain only 350 body parts, compared with the 560 of its predecessor.

Later models include the XJ41, a sporting derivative in the same mould as the old E-type and sharing many components with the XJ40.

Jaguar, An Investors Guide, £30 plus £2 p&p from the Motor Industry Research Unit, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TT.

ESSO PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED PUBLIC INQUIRY PIPE-LINES ACT 1962

NOTICE is hereby given that whereas Esso Petroleum Company, Limited has applied to the Secretary of State for Energy for authorisation under section 1(1) of the Pipe-lines Act 1962 for the construction of a cross-country pipe-line to convey refined oil products between the fence line of Esso's existing Fawley Refinery on Southampton Water in the county of Hampshire and the fence line of the terminal of Mainline Pipelines Limited at Seddon Hallway near Wolverhampton in the county of Staffordshire, and objections have been made to the proposed pipe-line, the Secretary of State has directed that a public inquiry be held. The inquiry will be held at the Council Chamber, The Municipal Offices, The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1PP on 3rd July 1984 at 10.00 a.m. and will continue later if necessary at a venue in Hampshire to be announced.

A member of the Department of Environment's Planning Inspectorate has been appointed by the Secretary of State to hold the inquiry. The inquiry will be held in accordance with the Pipe-lines (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1967, SI 1967 No. 1709.

Esso Petroleum Company, Limited has requested the Secretary of State, if he authorises the construction of the proposed pipe-line, to authorise it along a route modified within the boundaries of land owned by Esso Petroleum Company, Limited at its refinery at Fawley and the modified route thus referred to is shown on the maps deposited at the offices of the Hampshire County Council and the New Forest District Council listed in the Schedule below.

Esso Petroleum Company, Limited has further requested the Secretary of State, if he authorises the construction of the proposed pipe-line, to authorise it along a route modified within the boundaries of land owned by Esso Petroleum Company, Limited at its refinery at Fawley and the modified route thus referred to is shown on the maps deposited at the offices of the Hampshire County Council and the New Forest District Council listed in the Schedule below.

Opportunity for objections to the above-mentioned proposals from the route delineated on the maps referred to in the Notice publicly advertised in November 1983 will be afforded at the public inquiry.

A copy of the Company's application, together with the supporting documents (including maps and plans) intended to be put in evidence at the inquiry, may be inspected at the Department of Energy, Room 1053, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW6 2JL, at the offices of Messrs. John German, Ramsbury, Northborough, Wiltshire, SN1 2JL, at the Administration Building, Fawley Refinery, near Southampton, SO4 1TX and at the office of Mainline Pipelines Ltd., Seddon Hallway, near Wolverhampton, WV5 7EY.

A copy of the maps showing that part of the route of the proposed pipe-line which runs through the area of each county and district council affected can also be inspected at the offices of the council, as set out in the Schedule below.

THE SCHEDULE

- A. COUNTY COUNCILS**
- Hampshire County Council, Winchester, SO23 8UE.
 - Wiltshire County Council, County Hall, Tisbury, Wiltshire, BA14 5JE.
 - Gloucestershire County Council, County Hall, Stroud Road, Worcester, WR3 2NP.
 - Staffordshire County Council, County Hall, 37 High Street, Stafford, ST16 2JL.
- B. DISTRICT COUNCILS**
- New Forest District Council, Appleton Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO4 7PA.
 - Test Valley Borough Council, Seayall Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ.
 - South Gloucestershire District Council, The Cedars, Ball Road, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL9 2AS.
 - North Wiltshire District Council, Marlborough Park, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN15 1ER.
 - Gloucestershire District Council, Trinity Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 1PX.
 - Test Valley Borough Council, County Hall, Stroud Road, Worcester, WR3 2NP.
 - Staffordshire District Council, County Hall, 37 High Street, Stafford, ST16 2JL.
 - New Forest District Council, Appleton Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO4 7PA.
 - Test Valley Borough Council, Seayall Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ.
 - South Gloucestershire District Council, The Cedars, Ball Road, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL9 2AS.

Head of Pipe-lines Inspectorate
1984

Wayne Lintott talks to the architect of a double City coup

Mercantile makes the most of stock market change



John Barkshire: Relishing the challenge of change

Mr John Barkshire, one of the City's most innovative entrepreneurs, predicted yesterday that his Mercantile House would become one of the top 10 financial service conglomerates in the country.

He disclosed his plans in an interview with *The Times* immediately after surprising the City with a daring double-headed coup: an agreed takeover of the discount house, Jessel Toynbee and Gillett, and a 29 per cent stake in Laing & Crickshank, one of the stock market's leading brokers.

According to Mr Barkshire, obviously relishing every moment of the wheeling and dealing involved in staying on top of the present round of changes for Britain's financial services, these deals are the culmination of a strategy that was first mooted 17 years ago.

Last year Mercantile spent £91m taking over the American stock broker Oppenheimer & Co. In February this year it paid £29m for discount house, Alexander's.

The foundations have now been laid for Mercantile to achieve Mr Barkshire's ambitions.

He is politely dismissive of those voices in the Stock Exchange fighting a rear-guard action against the changes on that market.

"This is the most exciting time I have ever experienced," he said. "And potential rewards for those who get it right are enormous."

"There will always be a substantial body of opinion against changes and progress. But I believe that it is in the long-term benefit of the City that the changes should take place."

His own strategy for the future is a clear illustration of how the more aggressive companies view their future role.

"We have broken down our major areas of operation into three parts. The first is to become a primary dealer in gilts, Treasury bills, quasi-

government stock, certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances.

"The second area covers the equity, loan stock and debenture markets and the third is the establishment of a major presence in the international markets for both stocks and bonds. They are the three critical areas," he said.

In Britain, Mr Barkshire sees significant growth originating from Laing & Crickshank. Laing is known for the strength of its private client list, said to exceed 30,000, and an increasingly aggressive corporate finance department. When the rules permit, Mercantile will make a full bid for the firm.

"Laing's strategy is very close to our own. We hope to be able to integrate their own research operations with those of Oppenheimer in New York, as well as taking them into trading areas where they are not as strong as they might be, particularly

in competition for block share business. That, obviously, would enable such a firm to become a market maker."

Mr Barkshire sees corporate finance as the central and pivotal key to minimizing the opportunities emanating from the stock exchange liberalization.

Both Laing and ourselves want to see corporate finance much more aggressive and creative.

The long-term outlook involves international expansion into the Pacific basin with the central office based in Tokyo, a city he has become increasingly attuned to over the past year.

"We want a similar house in the Pacific to that we have just established in London. The Japanese are more liberally minded now than they were a year ago and are slowly lifting the barriers," he observed.

While Mr Barkshire sees the Japanese as a potential competitive threat in London, he does not view them as the ogres many in the City believe them to be. "It is very difficult," he said, "to compete in another's domestic market as a foreigner."

As Mercantile House has thus grown from acquisition, how, one wonders, would Mr Barkshire respond to a merger or takeover approach from an outside body moving the same way?

"I have no particular pride when it comes to mergers or acquisitions. If it looked the right thing to do for the shareholders, I do not believe that we should resist it," he said, adding: "That does not mean we would necessarily welcome an approach, but often independence is just another way of saying the directors are on an ego trip, and running a business should never be that," he concluded.

On the professional end of the business, corporate finance would "move aggressively" into providing a full balance sheet service for corporate clients, personal services for corporate executives, and would actively

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION of

Federative Republic of Brazil

8 1/4% External Bonds Due December 1, 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil, that on June 1, 1984, \$728,000 principal amount of its 8 1/4% External Bonds will be redeemed out of moneys to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandate of an annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authorizing Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of December 1, 1972. Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

Coupon Bonds to be redeemed in whole:

1454	3357	6400	12343	16414	23796	24494	28633	30136	31471	32455	34620
310	3362	6405	12992	16421	23840	24512	28659	30233	31474	32456	34625
356	3366	6444	12703	16487	23854	24535	28660	30233	31475	32457	34626
941	3381	6446	12712	16490	23870	24541	28696	30334	31477	32457	34627
560	3380	6506	12734	16524	23901	24566	28739	30359	31786	32458	34628
579	4271	6660	12747	16537	23936	24573	28741	30374	31815	32459	34629
1063	4445	6670	12710	16547	23950	24589	28764	30391	31827	32460	34630
1062	4449	6701	12808	16554	23982	24606	28784	30403	31837	32461	34631
1081	4463	6724	12823	16588	23995	24784	28814	30407	31846	32462	34632
1112	4491	6729	12841	16618	24004	24838	28847	30425	31861	32463	34633
1126	4712	7328	12845	16634	24024	25180	28847	30427	31863	32464	34635
1174	5131	7496	12850	16651	24025	25280	28851	30428	31864	32465	34636
1208	5139	7944	12859	16650	24050	25287	28872	30451	31874	32466	34637
1210	5154	8204	12874	16658	24059	25308	28870	30460	31875	32467	34638
1221	5158	8350	12860	16654	24075	25321	28894	30470	31879	32468	34639
1237	5205	8713	12870	16656	24085	25369	28898	30489	31877	32469	34641
1442	5215	8742	12872	16678	24101	25352	28917	30486	31881	32470	34642
1454	5221	8750	12884	16685	24121	25369	28918	30484	31882	32471	34643
1456	5244	8910	13320	16686	24138	25381	28960	30585	31821	32466	34645
1479	5368	9065	13827	16640	24139	25396	28972	30587	31848	32469	34646
1500	5375	9082	13636	16677	24179	25375	28982	30591	31855	32468	34647
1663	5398	9100	13797	16687	24189	25315	29009	30595	31882	32470	34647
1686	5467	9119	13824	16692	24206	25406	29041	30576	31886	32466	34648
2051	5410	10266	14102	16694	24201	25365	29014	30574	31882	32466	34649
2131	5513	10375	14403	16695	24247	25670	29159	30598	31823	32465	34649
2172	5536	10388	14554	16666	24272	25784	29283	31060	32444	34625	34651
2638	5560	10403	14710	16663	24273	25771	29296	31071	32445	34631	34652
2680	5601	11119	14711	16687	24314	25816	29318	31078	32289	34637	34654
2677	5673	11247	14810	16660	24320	25840	29343	31082	32272	34634	34654
2691	5682	11413	14882	16615	24333	25894	29357	31138	32261	34631	34654
2707	5688	11417	14907	16638	24339	25900	29366	31182	32307	34637	34658
2707	6112	11453	15824	16644	24373	25942	29408	31780	32316	34640	34662
2714	6122	11460	15825	16656	24391	25959	29470	31712	32320	34640	34662
2737	6126	11551	16311	16677	24402	25978	29478	31824	32326	34641	34662
2758	6138	11952	16316	16678	24426	25983	29523	31822	32346	34645	34665
2766	6192	12183	16330	16678	24460	25981	29571	30073	31823	32366	34649
2770	6205	12219	16380	16675	24477	25986	29607	30047	31823	32366	34649
3253	6337	12336	16396	16678	24478	25983	30089	31821	32369	34645	34655

Registered Bonds without coupons to be redeemed in whole or in part and the principal amount, to be redeemed:

Principal Amount to be Redeemed	Principal Amount to be Redeemed	Principal Amount to be Redeemed	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
RB 294, 58,000	RB 783, 52,000	RB 904, 510,000	RB 944, 51,000
RB 741, 2,000	RB 789, 3,000	RB 919, 59,000	RB 956, 11,000
RB 754, 2,000	RB 770, 7,000	RB 946, 84,000	RB 989, 1,000

Bonds so selected for redemption in the case of a partial redemption the portion to be redeemed will become due and payable in United States dollars on June 1, 1984, at the office of Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., 25 Rector Street, New York, New York 10006, at one hundred per cent (100%) of the principal amount thereof with interest accrued thereon to the redemption date. Coupon Bonds should be presented for redemption together with all appurtenant coupons maturing subsequent to the redemption date. If moneys for the redemption of all the Bonds to be redeemed (or in the case of a partial redemption on the portion to be redeemed) are available at the office of Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. on the redemption date, interest thereon will cease to accrue from and after such date.

In the case of a partial redemption of any registered Bond, upon presentation of such Bond on or after the redemption date, the registered holder will receive the applicable redemption price in respect of the principal amount thereof called for redemption, and a new Bond for the principal amount remaining unredeemed will be delivered thereof without charge.

At the option of the respective holders of the Bonds selected for redemption, the principal amount thereof and interest thereon may be collected upon presentation at the offices of the Co-Paying Agent, Banco Do Brasil, S.A. in New York, London, Paris, Hamburg and Tokyo.

DILLON, READ & CO. INC.
Principal Paying Agent

Dated: May 1, 1984

Taylor Woodrow records 26% increase in pre-tax profit

Mr. Dick Puttick, Chairman and Chief Executive, reports:

For the twenty-third year in succession our group activities have earned increased profits. This is a not unsatisfactory performance having regard to the very competitive conditions which prevail in this country and overseas.

For some years the construction industry has been passing through a difficult period with shortage of new work, giving rise to intense competition and a consequent narrowing of profit margins. However, as a result of careful attention to our estimating and tendering policies we ended the year with a good volume of work on hand to carry us into 1984 and this position has been maintained. Present indications point to some improvement in the amount of new work becoming available as evidenced by the number of enquiries we are receiving. This we find encouraging and we look to the challenges of the future with confidence.

A major contribution to the increase in profits came from housing

liquid funds stood at £69.0 million.

Properties were revalued at the end of 1983 and a net surplus of £9.1 million was credited to revaluation reserves. Combined with retained profits and the surplus on revaluation, shareholders' funds now stand at £302.1 million, equivalent to 1023p per share.

The board recommends the capitalisation of part of the reserves of the company and the application of such to paying up in full ordinary shares for distribution to shareholders on the basis of one new share for every share held.

The facilities and resources we have developed over the years by our wealth-creating free enterprise efforts have enabled us to help improve quality of life worldwide and provide what we believe is a challenging, exciting, enjoyable worthwhile career for our many team members. We are indeed fortunate in Taylor Woodrow to have such fine teams of competent people who are dedicated to the pursuit of

The Year in brief

	1983	1982
Turnover	£696m	£609m
Profit before tax	£35.9m	£28.5m
Profit available to Taylor Woodrow plc	£29.0m	£17.5m
Earnings per share before extraordinary items	66.2p	54.7p
after extraordinary items	98.3p	59.3p
Net dividends per share	24.5p	19.5p

activities, particularly in North America. It is noteworthy that gross rents have moved up from £18.8 million to £25.0 million for 1983, and that profits from property operations showed a significant increase to £6.1 million for the year.

The group continued to achieve a positive cash flow in 1983 of £11.0 million and at the end of the year



excellence and who are always so ready to meet the challenges of these very competitive times for our industry.

May I thank not only our clients for the valued orders they place with us but also the variety of professional people, suppliers and subcontractors for the assistance they provide in the carrying out of these works.

Experience, expertise and teamwork - worldwide



BPCC bid confirmed by Maxwell

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation yesterday confirmed that it was bidding for the Bishopsgate Trust with the aim of liquidating the portfolio to release cash to reduce borrowings.

Mr Maxwell's private company, Pergamon Press, holds 76 per cent of BPCC's shares which makes a conventional rights issue difficult. Under the terms of the BPCC bid for Bishopsgate, the Pergamon stake will be diluted to 61 per cent.

Full acceptance of BPCC's offer would mean the issue of 28 million shares, equivalent to 19.2 per cent of the enlarged share capital. Bishopsgate is valued at £52.7m assuming an estimated net asset value of 203.1p.

Three big institutions with more than half the shares among them have already agreed to accept the recommended offer. BPCC's annual report, published yesterday, is optimistic.

It has also promised a dividend of not less than 9p for the year.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	3 1/4%
BCCI	9 1/4%
Citibank Savings	9 1/4%
Consolidated Crds	8 1/4%
Continental Trust	8 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	9 1/4%
Nat Westminster	8 1/4%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/4%
Citibank NA	9 1/4%

7 day deposit on sum of under £10,000, 6%: £10,000 to £250,000, 6 1/4%: £250,000 and over, 7 1/4%

Scottish Life Investments

INSURANCE FUNDS

INVESTMENT FUNDS			
	Net	84	Offer
Managed	97.2	102.4	
Property	46.6	101.8	
UK Equity	96.9	104.2	
American	102.6	108.1	
Pacific	96.6	101.8	
European	100.0	105.0	
International	99.2	104.6	
Fixed Interest	93.0	98.0	
Index Linked	94.4	103.7	
Deposit	95.9	101.0	
Growth			
Pen Managed	97.2	102.4	
Pen Property	46.6	101.8	
Pen UK Equity	100.0	105.3	
Pen Americas	104.1	109.7	
Pen Pacific	97.4	102.7	
Pen European	101.1	106.3	
Pen Int'l	100.0	105.5	
Pen Fixed Int	96.0	98.0	
Pen Index Ltd	98.1	104.4	
Pen Index Ltd	93.0	98.0	

By Jonathan Clare

There is a final dividend of 1.2p against last time's nominal payment of 0.1p. Readicut's business ranges from seating materials for Greyhound coaches to rug kits.

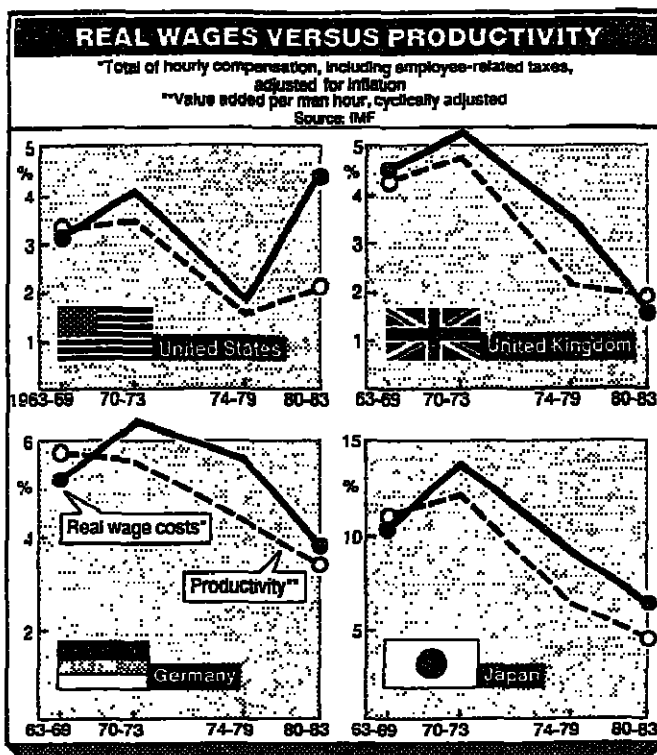
The better cash flow after three difficult years (with losses in two of them) has also helped reduce gearing from more than 60 per cent to just over 40 per cent.

Nicolson stands down as chairman of BTR

Carnarvon Mining: Lord

joins the board as non-executive director. Mr Robert Rush-ton joins the board as director, responsible for the property interests of the group.

The wages-jobless factor



It was possible for countries like Britain to sustain their standard of living by obtaining imports, especially of food and

This must have been true – for regions, industries and

It concludes that this is not a significant element in explaining the increase of unemployment. But it also shows that the administration of benefits seems to have become more lax and that this may have led to greater unemployment.

The author is chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council.

[illegible][illegible]

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split
t Traded. y Unquoted.



With Gulf Air's Golden Economy service, however, you'll find six hours just isn't long enough to enjoy all the special treatment. To revel in the kind of comfort and cuisine that have made Gulf Air winner of *Executive* magazine's "Best airline to the Middle East" award for two years running.

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061-832 9677/8. Birmingham 021-632 5931.
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KAFACHI KUWAIT LARNACA LONDON MANILA MUSCAT PARIS RAS AL KHAIMAH RIYADH SAL AL AH SHARJAH TAIPEI

● Five pages today

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Edited by Matthew May

● Mr Fifth Generation: Page 27

The lure of the Valley of Competition

Advertisements reflect a society's culture. The billboards that border the highways of California's Santa Clara County support that view as their sponsors attempt to lure the youthful, talented and ambitious workforce from the employment of a high technology competitor. Competition drives the industrial strip south of San Francisco, known the world over as Silicon Valley, the new home of America's information technology industry and the advertisements leave one in little doubt.

One billboard promises you an extra two weeks' salary if you join the advertiser's employment before the end of the week. Another asks you to re-examine your career prospects and change jobs immediately if you are frustrated.

Competition and energy are the two basic ingredients that have fuelled Silicon Valley in the last decade and allowed high technology start-up companies to transform from one man and a garage operation to billion-dollar multi-nationals.

"In this valley, which is so fertile with ideas and companies, it would be so easy to lose them," says John Sculley, chief executive of Apple Computers, talking about a creative staff on whom he has had to impose managerial disciplines in the last year, to strengthen the computer company which has had to respond to the direct competition and technical challenge offered by the powerful IBM.

Small companies spawned from the frustrated talent of other companies pepper the history of Silicon Valley. Sculley has no intention of encouraging talent within his group to leave and set

up another company because his management procedures have inhibited their talents.

The heritage of new ventures being fathered by larger companies goes back nearly 30 years. William Shockley, the co-inventor of the transistor, had then returned to Palo Alto in Silicon Valley, where he had been raised, to create the Shockley Transistor Corporation.

Within a year, eight of the technical high fliers had departed to set up their own company Fairchild semiconductor Fairchild in its turn was to be a prime source of new electronic, computer and telecommunication companies in the area. Since the establishment of Fairchild Semiconductor Group in the late 50s more than 40 companies have been created by its employees, including Intel.

The Valley has grown extensively over the last decade and consequently changed in character. It measures 25 by 10 miles and encompasses the entire south-western edge of San Francisco Bay. More than 3,000 companies, most of them in a high technology sector, are based in the area which embraces Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, San Jose and a few lesser towns. The one thing most of them now have in common is the microprocessor or microcomputer. But the cost of pursuing research and development in that area has changed dramatically, making it more difficult for the entrepreneurs of tomorrow to adopt the style of their predecessors in the valley and launch their company from home, funded by a month's salary.

The Valley has almost gone respectable. A recent paper presented

by Digital Research, itself an example of a successful high technology company which started in the San Francisco area in the mid 1970s, emphasised the cost of that research and development on microcomputers and hinted at the constraints likely to be imposed on future high technology entrepreneurs.

It said: "What began in the mid 1970s as a curiosity market involving Tandy, Apple and Commodore has grown in size and importance to include several large Japanese electronics companies (including NEC and Fujitsu), plus US notables IBM, Digital Equipment Corporation and Xerox Corporation. Expected soon to enter the personal computer market is the new AT & T. And the market has diversified to encompass homes, offices and factories."

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

The microcomputer sector's growth has been unprecedented and is the fodder on which the companies of Silicon Valley will feed. The giants of the industry with their marketing expertise, their distributor networks and their research capabilities are making the competition even in Silicon Valley, unusually intense.

The start-up cost in this area has inflated from the 1,000-dollar stake needed for a new company about ten years ago to nearly 50m dollars.

Customers expect more of technology and also want more of it for their money. If one manufacturer cannot provide it someone in this competitive area will be prepared to try. That is something that they are confident about in San Francisco Bay; someone will always be willing to compete.

Digital Research further concluded in their paper: "The processing power of yesterday's mainframe systems is available on today's desk top. Tomorrow that power may well be in home systems. In 1980 it cost 300,000 dollars to provide systems capable of processing one million instructions per second. By 1984 equally capable systems will be built for 10,000 dollars."

Why Silicon Valley has attracted high technology industry in such proportions is still unclear. The climate is attractive - and the young turks of the electronics industries have shown a preference for the sun - but it is not a significant factor in making the companies which emanate from the valley commercially successful.

Most of them have been successful. Part of the credit has been given to Stanford University. Wishing to encourage enterprise on the doorstep of the university, Stanford took steps to make some of its extensive holding in land available for high technology projects. The first moves of any significance were made nearly 50 years ago when two talented students, William Hewlett and David Packard were encouraged to set up their electronics company in Palo Alto. The credit has been given to Frederick Terman, a teacher in radio and

electrical engineering at Stanford. That was the birth of Hewlett-Packard.

Palo Alto is a different place now and computer technology dominates. The growth anticipated by the American high technology sector and those based in Silicon Valley is expected to come from the explosion of computer usage. Software, hardware and peripherals are being developed in the valley at a furious pace.

According to Future Computing, a Texas-based group which monitors the trends in the computer field, the personal computer market in the US alone will be worth 42 million dollars by 1988. In the United States there are 150-200 companies making personal and home computers. 400-500 main manufacturers of computer peripherals, and thousands of companies which are developing and selling software.

Silicon Valley is the base for a substantial proportion of these groups. By 1988 23 million personal computers will have been installed in homes and offices in the United States. The software will be worth 5,000 million dollars.

By then Silicon Valley will have changed even more. Multi-million dollar automated factories like the one which has just been built by Apple Computers at Fremont will abound. Will there then be a demand for the scarce technical skills of today when a computer will be able to design its own successor and supervise the production of its own clones? No one in the Valley knows. What they do know is that they can rely on change and the inevitable competition.



This is the man who, probably more than any other, can lay claim to the title of "Mr Fifth Generation". Rex Malik has been talking to him at his home in Tokyo. Page 27.

IBM keeps them all waiting

Details of IBM's long-awaited local area network caught computer analysts by surprise when it was launched last week. Instead of a complete system as widely expected IBM announced only a specification for the cabling to be used for the system and said a full network will not be available until 1985 or 1987.

Local area networks designed to link different brands of computer and share peripheral equipment are considered vital if office automation is to become more sophisticated. The advent of IBM into local area networks was considered the easiest way of establishing conformity as it is the only company that can effectively impose a world standard because of its dominant market position.

American analysts have suggested that the launch of IBM's own cabling system two or three years before a network will become available is an attempt to lock

COMPUTER BRIEFING

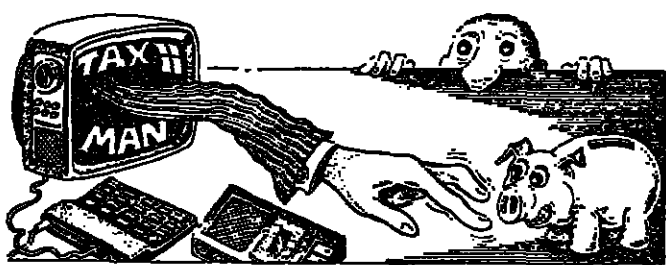
customers into their own product now. Local area networks are currently available from Digital Equipment, Wang, Xerox and others who now have a head start in the field.

£372m deal

Control Data have announced a 540-million dollar (£372 million) deal with AT & T for the supply of a range of computer peripheral products. They will be used in AT&T's recently-launched 3S series of desk top micro and mini-computers and includes disc drives, tape drives and magnetic recording media.

Speedy mini

A new computer system which minimises hardware and electronics by using a centralised processor has been developed in Sweden by Versal of Spanga. Designed for large-scale computer communications, and compatible



with IBM, it is built with mini-computer technology but is claimed to be much faster than micro-computers. Using bitslice circuits, the Versal system has a micro-programmed eight-bit CPU connected directly to the primary memory. This means that memory access is more efficient than in traditional minicomputers.

Atlantic link

The ever-increasing amount of information about the computer industry is to gain a new twist in the US with plans for a television channel dedicated to small business, educational and home users. The Computer Satellite Network plans to start broadcasting in America this autumn and to bring

the channel to Europe next year. Software will be transmitted direct to viewers' own computers through a decoder expected to cost around £140.

Micro milking

Agricultural scientists in Northern Ireland have developed a prediction program for milk production which calculates by computer how the resources on a farm can be used more effectively. Using an Apple II computer with a Visi-calc software package, the system requires only the simplest of information from the farmer such as the average number of cows kept during any given year, average milk yield, calving pattern, length of time the herd is out and

Spectre in the Spectrum

A step-by-step guide to personal income tax calculation is now available for users of the Sinclair Spectrum. It has been developed by the Consumers Association and is published by Sinclair Research. With the help of an extensive manual, the user is taken through the three parts of the package. The first section

defines the personal circumstances of the user, the second poses questions on extra income such as pensions and investment personal outgoings and allowances. When all sections have been entered, the true tax rate is automatically calculated for the 1983-84 tax year.

indoors, number of silage cuts and the amount of feed used. It is available free from the Farm Management Section of the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture.

Contributors:
Matthew May, Mark Stone

UK events

Computers, Business Systems & Communications Equipment Exhibition - Micro City, Bristol Exhibition Centre, Canon Road, City Centre, Bristol, May 15-17. DEC User Show, Novotel Hotel, London W6, May 15-17. RIBA Computer Exhibition, Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, Coram Street, London WC1, May 22-24.

Overseas

Mini/Micro Northeast, Boston, USA, May 15-17. Micro Exposition, Paris, May 22-26. International Compute Show for Office, Home, Hobby, Cologne, Germany, June 14-17.

Compiled by Personal Computer News.

New business competition

Following the success of The Times National Micro-computer Challenge competition, Computer Horizons announces a new contest with a special interest for businessmen at all levels - The Times Business Enterprise Computer Competition.

Although this competition will focus on specific business applications, entries will be invited from all readers who believe they have business flair.

Watch out for details in Computer Horizons next Tuesday.



They're killing your executives.

A slow death by paperwork. That's what everyone in your organisation faces every day.

Because paper, though carrying essential information, also clutters up the communication arteries of your business. Moving paper is slow and laborious. And it is everyone who suffers.

When you and your staff should be occupied in a much more profitable way. Using the skills you were employed to use.

Certainly, an office automation system

should speed things up. But, please ignore any computer company that tells you that you can do without the daily round of memos, reports, schedules and the like. You don't want to end up reorganising the way your company works around a computer.

As you may have guessed, we have the answer. We believe it's an office automation system unlike any other you may have heard about. It's called STC 6600 Officepower.

It works, because we built it the right

way round. Starting with the way you work now and creating a system that helps everyone become more efficient.

It means, for example, you can send a memo just by pressing a button.

And schedule meetings after checking diaries, all electronically. While your secretary alters the agenda using the word processing facility.

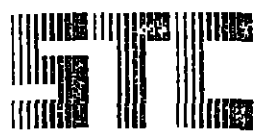
We could go on. But you can only really appreciate how much STC 6600

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Finding a way to beat ITEC cash shortage

by Paul Walton

The emerging new technology colleges are in danger of going broke and some may start to close this year, despite the fact that they find teenagers jobs and supply much-needed skills for the future. But some, fired by success, will not let lack of money become an obstacle.

The adolescent information technology training centres have come of age: the so-called ITECs have trained several thousand teenagers in practical computing and electronics; perhaps half of these have been given a start that they might otherwise have missed in the past through poor training or lack of initiative.

Moreover, at least one Itec is ignoring the constraints placed upon it by backers, like the Manpower Services Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry, and is determined to grow despite an acute cash shortage.

The Government and local authorities pay capital costs for the Itecs, with commercial sponsors providing running costs and, often, the staff. But after 1983/84 the public funds will end, with no guarantee that they will be replenished. Less dynamic or poorly supported Itecs might close, according to Patricia Waller, head of the Camden Itec in London.

Most of the 150 centres are clustered in those parts of the country hardest hit by youth unemployment: Clydeside;



Hands on: another step in learning at Wallacey

Tyneside; Merseyside; the West Midlands; and depressed areas of the capital. It is these which find it hard to get sponsors or backing.

Mr Pat Burke is the manager of the Wallacey Itec on depressed Merseyside, seconded from his job as a production manager at the local Marconi plant; his centre is run so tightly that even the staff canteen is profit-making and is used to train young chefs.

The Wallacey Itec now trains everyone from those beginning secondary school to unemployed dockers, as well as those 16-17 year olds on the Youth Training Scheme, to which the Itec is hitched. It is unique in going beyond teenage education to reach unemployed adults. In

fact, anybody can learn about new technology, paying if they can afford to, in a scheme called Open Access.

The figures speak for themselves - 77 of the 92 YTS trainees have found permanent work since it opened just over two years ago. Recently four of the original dozen or so adults who took shorter courses this year have now found jobs - an incredible leap from manual to skilled work after just a couple of months' training.

Wallacey Itec has a marketing manager, Mr John Robinson, who "sells" his trainees, he was the marketing manager for a commercial firm before he lost his job.

Mr Robinson conceived a new job description, that of microcomputer operator: "Businessmen today buy a micro and a piece of software, like Visicalc or Lotus 1-2-3, but then find that they can't use it. So, we

JOB SCENE

send along a trainee who runs it for them - he's been trained to use a few of the popular machines or programs. In time the trainee learns more about micros, the business sees how useful he could be and hey presto, he's got a full-time job!"

After twelve months at the centre intensive efforts are made to find the trainees work, and an impressive "aftercare" service keeps an eye on them once they leave, either continuing trying to find them jobs, or ensuring that they keep them. Trainees are also taught how to get a job. A video camera shows them how they perform in interviews.

Youngsters from two local schools are also there, thanks to a pilot scheme, the Technical Education Vocational Initiative, getting an early feel for technology. On the days when the YTS people are on day-release with an employer, or away getting a theoretical education at the local further education college, the Itec is still packed.

Paintbox finds a place in the theatre

By Geoffrey Ellis

An exciting project, linking the world of the arts and computer-generated graphics, is being launched in a new series of television programmes being transmitted by BBC2.

As part of their new arts programme Saturday Review, which started on Saturday the Quantel Paintbox, a sophisticated colour graphics system will be put in the hands of users who would normally not have access to a system whose commercial rental is currently running at more than £150 per hour.

The producer of this section of the show, Tony Tyley, hopes that by asking newcomers to experiment with the system, with expert guidance, new and exciting applications in the visual and creative area can be explored.

The first group to take part in the experiment was the Theatre Design department at The Central School of Art and Design, London, where the senior lecturer, Pamela Howard and four of the students used the system for five days. She was delighted with the results, and sees the Paintbox as being a useful production tool, saving both time and money in the planning of designs.

Currently working on designs for play based on the life of Kipling, to be presented at the Mermaid Theatre, she was able to arrange the complex alignment of slide projections with the chief character in the play, Alec McCowan, who was enthusiastically involved in the transfer of computer-generated slides.

The problem of alignment in such productions needs meticulous planning, and says Pamela Howard, the whole production was considerably eased by the use of the computer. Normally, it involves the making of a whole range of scale models, but this need was done away with.

Producer Tony Tyley says this is typical of the application breakthrough he is looking for, and claims it will lead to the posing of important questions in further applications.

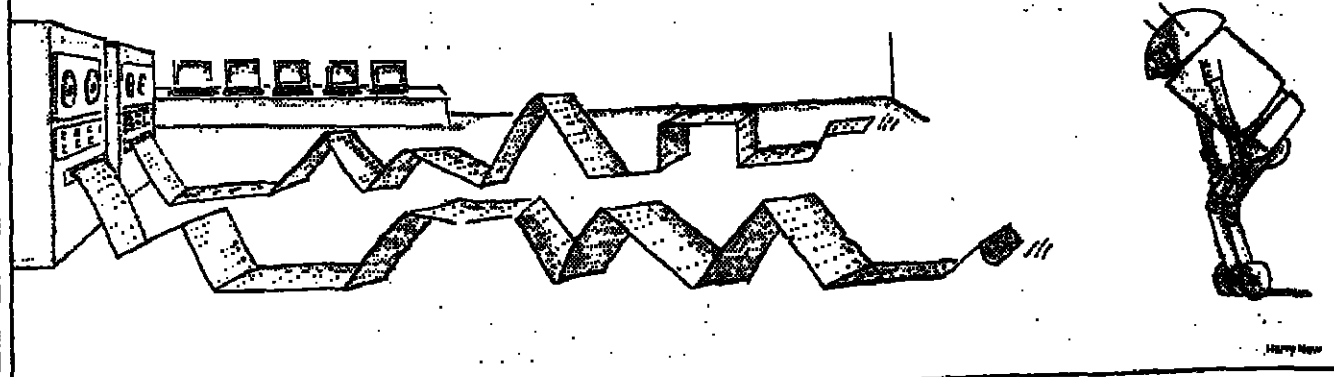
House buying on the screen

Real estate agents in Toronto are now able to buy and sell property listed in the city with personal computers through an advanced computerized listing service.

About 13,000 brokers and agents can subscribe to its on-line database for 40 dollars a month per terminal. Each subscriber is assigned a code to prevent unauthorized entry into the system and agents can access the database with a variety of computers. Mark Stone writes.

"A user can call up any listing by address, street, district or by specifying a search that is limited to ignore houses that are too expensive or the wrong type for the potential buyer," says Maurice Lamond, chairman of the computer committee. The system has started with 30,000 listings.

FILE



A new line in 'bells and whistles' in networking information

By Russell Jones

To move information directly from one computer to another at a different location, or from a computer to a terminal at a remote location, it is invariably necessary to use the telephone network. Until recently, this has required the use of a modem to act as a "bridge" between the network and the computer or terminal.

To understand why a modem is required, you need to understand how a computer stores information and how the telephone network carries out its normal role - which is to transmit information in the form of speech.

A computer can only understand the difference between "on" and "off". Within the computer, therefore, all information is stored in combinations of 0 ("off") and 1 ("on"). This method of storing information is known as the binary or digital system and it is also used to pass information from the computer to its local devices, such as disks and printers. It does not matter how the information may eventually be produced - as a display on a terminal, or as a printed listing

- it is stored inside the computer as millions of 0s or 1s.

On the other hand, the originators of the telephone network (almost a century ago), had a more difficult task to accomplish. They had to find a way to transmit the constantly varying pattern of human speech from one location to another. This was achieved by setting a base flow of electricity between the two points, then varying its characteristics as the pattern of the speech altered.

When it was first found necessary to pass information between computers, or their peripheral devices, at different locations, the most obvious method of achieving this was to use the existing telephone network, and this has remained the most common method for 30 years or more. The information is passed either along a private circuit leased from British Telecom or along a temporary path between the two devices, which is "dialed up" in much the same way as a normal phone call would be.

Obviously, there existed (and exists) a basic difference

between the way that the computer stores and normally passes information and the way that the phone network passes information. This is the reason for the modem - the actual word being an abbreviation of modulate - demodulate. Information to be passed from a computer to the network is converted by a modem, from a digital form to a modulated form and the process is reversed when the information reaches its destination.

Modems are graded according to the speed at which they pass information along the telephone network. The most common speed is between 4800 and 9600 bits per second (bps).

Generally speaking, 1 bit is equivalent to 1 piece of digital information as it would be stored within the computer and as a reasonable rule of thumb, it requires 8 bits to represent 1 displayable or printable character. Therefore, a modem transmitting at 4800 bps is sending about 600 characters a second. When you bear in mind that the normal speed of passing information between a computer and, for example, a locally

attached terminal is upwards of 1 million bps, the transmission speeds along the telephone network are dramatically slow.

Modern technology has improved gradually, so that there are now quite a few modems around with extra "bells and whistles". For example, it is possible to buy modems that will transmit, on normal BT circuits, at up to 19200 bps and there are many devices now available that are a mixture of a modem and a multiplexor - allowing the same physical link to transmit more than one stream of information at what appears to be the same time.

However, the future holds the promise of specialized networks for the transmission of information in a digital form - within both parts of the BT network, and other private networks. Obviously, at that time, there should be no problems of compatibility between the (digital) computer and digital transmission networks and, in many ways, the modem will be seen as a mere stepping stone in the evolutionary growth of computing within our society.

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At home with the fifth generation family

As director of the Research Centre at ICOT, Japan's Institute for the Generation of New Computer Technology, 47-year-old Kazuhiko Fuchi leads the organization building what has become known as the fifth generation, the new breed of intelligent machines scheduled for the mid-90s and the focus of world attention from the computer industry. From Tokyo REX MALIK provides an intimate look at the lifestyle of Japan's Mr Fifth Generation.

"With this kind of machine, he knows more than I do," said Mr Fuchi. "He" was his 19-year-old eldest son, Takeshi, and they were doing some program testing on a JVC MSX personal computer. Takeshi was obviously an old hand, for the tape recorder he was using for program loading was old and battered.

Takeshi was absorbed, though in deference to visitors was polite and courteous. It being the custom in Japan to present your hosts with a small present, I had brought them a Goon Show tape, figuring that you would not get those in Japan (it was Wings Over Dagenham). Politeness, however, can go on so far, and Takeshi had to try it out immediately, before retreating to the keyboard and screen.

Mrs Seiko Fuchi looked at him and said: "Computers are too interesting for children". The implication was true they should be studying. One suspected that it was as much aimed at 13-year-old Hitoshi, the younger son, who, when not clowning, was spending probably more time than Mrs Fuchi would consider desirable trying to write a Star Trek simulator.

Takeshi's response, however, was that he had started to program six years ago, but had taken the last two years off to study, an absence for examination preparation. He had passed. He was following in father's footsteps and going on to Tokyo University to study engineering, though he did not have the choice of branch of engineering, to pick from till he had been there eighteen months.

It seemed quite obvious from his behaviour and comments that he knew exactly what he wanted to do. He was testing an Othello program and his responses were of the kind that indicated that he knew very well that there were large numbers out there - money numbers - and he would not mind getting his hands on some of it.

Did Mr Fuchi do much programming, I asked. "I used to but I no longer have the

time" he said. This was not the usual defence of senior people playing the game which is "I am important, so I stay late at the office so that my wife can say to the neighbours, 'See what an important man my husband is, the organisation could not exist without him'".

This was the answer of a man who is busy in his head; a dynamo at the office because he is in charge, a reflective planner and thinker when on his own.

You get the clear feeling that Mr Fuchi understands his importance in the scheme of things. The honour might be his, but so is the responsibility. He lives in what is for Tokyo a quite large modern house, inside a mixture of old and new, tatami and leather-covered reclining chairs. And for Tokyo it is only a short underground ride from the office, where he usually turns up between nine and ten and leaves in the early evening, unless there is a meeting.

Mrs Fuchi looked at him as if to say that there are perhaps too many meetings. Which is what you might expect, for his office is ICOT, the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology, home of Japan's trail-blazing Fifth Generation computer project, that long-term attempt to create intelligent machines.

Kazuhiko Fuchi may be its director, but as he is a national project, it is surrounded by committees and working groups, both formal and informal, and one suspects he sits on as many as he cannot get out of.

ICOT is the nerve centre of what is popularly known within the community as 5G, and it is a project he drives with flair and managerial force - some would say with ruthlessness - and without many of the traditional consensus mechanisms. The kind of psychological support found in many large Japanese technology research organisations. In working hours, it is Mr Fuchi who carries the load.

He persists in being known as Mr Fuchi, though he is actually Dr Fuchi, and also of Tokyo University. The "Mr", you feel, emphasises the technology



Takeshi Fuchi at an MSX keyboard discusses the Othello program with father and Hitoshi looking and learning

managerial role. And manage and drive it he does. It was he who was responsible for seeing to it that his 50-strong team are mostly so young that you sometimes wonder when looking around the floor whether any of them are old enough to have passed their driving tests.

This was greeted with relief, yet with some hurt by the large companies which cluster around the project. Relief because he had not managed to snaffle some of their more experienced and senior staff, hurt because though they all understood that this was meant to be a project starting from scratch, his insistence that the staff should be young cut across the normal Japanese notions of respect for age and seniority. If you were that young, how could you be that good?

If there is one person on whom 5G depends it is probably this slight figure in his mid-forties, this odd breed of driving manager and electronics

intellectual. He shares with many other intellectually-driven managers that characteristic that he can usually be stopped in mid-flow by the introduction of, to him, a new idea, which then has to be examined to see if it throws any light on the solutions to the problems that confront him. You get the feeling that he knows that the pride of Japan is resting on his judgement and ability.

Managerially, he behaves accordingly. Fuchi, said one of his colleagues, asks you to do a job in six months, which is exactly what he did when he asked for the development of the first machine, the system which is to provide the very specific work stations on which much of the non-theoretical development is to be carried out. So you struggle with him, and you eventually manage it in a year. And then you find that he privately expected that it would take a year in the first place.

He is, said the same colleague, a very able manager of high tech projects, particularly when they are, as this one is, surrounded by politics. That was his reputation at the MITI Electrotechnical Laboratory, from which he came to run 5G. Indeed, he was the key figure in synthesising the ideas that all the elderly and eminent Japanese who now claim to have fathered the Vth Generation project were then discussing, and turning them into a programme for action.

The result today is that should even a small part of Japan's ambitions be realised, Mr Fuchi will deserve well of computing and of society. A senior Japanese electronics specialist put it in the context of space exploration when he said: "He will not be Oerth or Willy Ley or Goddard, but he will be the equivalent of Werner Von Braun."

These are very high stakes indeed. The beginnings, how-

ever, were very different, and, whatever the stars may have indicated for him, not very propitious. His father was the youngest son of nine children from a poor peasant farming family in Kyushu, Japan's southern island. This is not the most promising place or beginning for someone destined for Tokyo University.

He is the first scientist engineer in the family, the eldest of three children. Such interests did not rub off on to his brother and sister. And they have not rubbed off on his wife or daughter, sixteen-year-old Satoko, both of whom talk of their pursuits as being cultural and artistic, definitely non-technological.

From a Kyushu farm to Tokyo University is a very long way. For Tokyo in the Japanese pantheon, both of learning and of power, has an even greater importance than Oxford has in Britain. Tokyo University's grip on the civil service,

politics, the higher ranks of science and technology, and the more dynamic large companies is reminiscent of the grip of the Polytechnique and ENA over the power structure of France.

I made a passing remark to him that one senior professor was a contemporary at the university of four of the presidents of Japan's ten largest electronics companies. Mr Fuchi cocked his head to one side, thought, and said that the professor was nine years ahead of him, and that he only knew of two presidents who were in the same class. I suspect he was entirely right.

He looked at Takeshi, who was by now back at the keyboard, and remarked that it was now a very different technology, one that he personally had never expected. It was a very different machine.

But what did Mr Fuchi do just for fun. On Sundays he succumbs to the Japanese passion for golf, though he has not yet joined a club. And did Mrs Fuchi play golf with him? That is definitely not a Japanese custom at all, but it is the sort of question that a foreigner can sometimes ask.

No she did not. But she would probably be better at it than he was, he said; she had more time. And did Mrs Fuchi, I said, switching the subject yet again, understand what he was up to in his work?

I put it more elliptically than that. Oh yes, she said. It was quite apparent that while she did not understand all the details, she knew she had married a comet which was going somewhere.

Mr Fuchi's parting shot took us back to his overriding preoccupation. Mr Fuchi is in the biological sense a sport. The Japanese talent is to make progress by small incremental steps, but 5G is only in part that. It is also broad concepts and radical departures. It is, in other words about thinking differently, and Mr Fuchi can think in both ways instinctively.

In practice, 5G is about the creation of modules which handle different tasks, and which will have to be linked and work together, and some of those initial linkages, even if only proved on paper, have to be made next year.

"I think," he said, "we will have a difficult stage". You could almost feel him preparing for the political and bureaucratic battles that are to come.

MSX launch heralds new PC revolution

By Rex Malik

It is called MSX and originates from Microsoft. It is Japanese-American the latter claiming the credit for they own its fundamental, the first being primarily responsible for its implementation. Up till now, it has been confined to Japan.

It is being launched in the UK on Thursday and it threatens another revolution in the personal computer market place. Indeed, it may already have led to one. The threat of MSX, say some cynics, has been a major reason for some of the heavy price-cutting and discounting in the personal computer market that has recently been taking place.

MSX is an attempt to create a personal computer standard. What Microsoft's Japanese subsidiary did was to create a general specification for a personal computer. They carefully and tightly detailed the hardware systems core but left great flexibility at the periphery. They specified their own operation system and their BASIC language as integral. Then they offered it to Japan's major consumer electronic manufacturers, those makers of televisions, stereos and the rest, who are accustomed to runs of a million or two at any one time.

Strangely, though they were all extensive users of microcomputers in other products, most were not at all in the computer market place. They could not see how they could get enough software. It was the classic chicken and egg situation.

MSX seemed to be the solution. Within months last year 10 companies had decided to produce to the MSX standard, which means that software can now be written for all of them and put on standard ROM cartridges. MSX machines have not just expanded the personal computer market in Japan, they are said to be having a devastating effect on the market share of the existing manufacturers.

Among those in the UK launch are: Canon, Hitachi, JVC, Mitsubishi, Sanyo, Sony and Toshiba.

Irritation gave birth to an IBM 'baby'

by Peter White

The microcomputer revolution has two distinctly different adherents - people who just want to play with computers and people in large companies fed up with their own computer department.

Those in the latter group are really responsible for the biggest computer company in the world, IBM, entering the personal computer stakes: a little more than two years ago.

What was talked about was an "applications" backlog, which really means that heads of company divisions who use computer-produced data could not get their data processing department to alter the layout of some piece of information, or make some new data available to them. The usual reply was: "I'm sorry, that's on a low priority, I can get it done in 18 months."

Naturally those department managers wanted it tomorrow and turned to the micro with its proliferation of budgeting and database tools. And just as naturally IBM followed, by building its own micro.

IBM, though, is not at ease in the role of following others, and in providing a micro at all it was fuelling a feud between the data processing department which was its traditional customer and the eventual information user.

One way out of this dilemma may be a little known operating system called Virtual Machine (VM), not to be confused with ICL's spearhead operating system Virtual Machine Environment.

VM has been on what the

Americans might call the "backburner" for years. It came out of one of IBM's many research laboratories, this one used for operating system development in the United States at Poughkeepsie, where IBM development staff worked on an interactive system for their own internal use to help them work on IBM's older systems more efficiently.

Instead of writing a long program and filling it with all the data you want processed, and letting it run for six hours before you get an answer, an interactive operating system, like VM, gives you the answers as you go along. It is like having a conversation with the computer, instead of writing letters to each other.

Because the engineers were so proud of it, and IBM's customers got to know about it, IBM was eventually, if somewhat reluctantly, forced to put it out on general release as a product. Even up to two years ago IBM never put any effort behind developing it further, and then it struck gold. It turned out that once a data processing department had introduced these utilities to an end user department, they could use it without too much hand holding, and get on with curing their own applications backlog, with no computer staff and no micro.

A user can play around with the PC part of the system as much as he wants.

This could lead to the control of computer facilities starting to come back to its birthplace, the data processing department.

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People/John Pearce of Pearce Technology Inspiration from the American market

by Roger Woolnough

It was when John Pearce visited the United States in 1971 to sell British-developed software that he grasped what he calls "the power of the American market place". Trying to tap that power has run like a thread through his career ever since.

Some of the attempts have been successful, others conspicuously less so, but at the beginning of this month he embarked on another attempt with undimmed confidence. One of the aims of his new company, Pearce Technology, is to help small British software firms to market internationally.

The 1971 trip to the USA was a huge success. After a period with IBM, Pearce had co-founded the Hoskyns Group with John Hoskyns in 1964. To find a wider market for a management system the group had developed, Pearce negotiated a deal with Martin Marietta, the American aerospace company. "They paid us so much in licence fees," he says, "they eventually bought the company."

That was in 1975, and the following year Pearce joined the National Enterprise Board. Here was another chance to tackle the American market. As well as negotiating the NEB's stakes in several computer companies, he set up Inscac, which included international software marketing among its aims.

Inscac fizzled out after the Conservatives came to power.



though the writing was on the wall before that, "I said we needed between 10 and 12 companies to make this thing fly," Pearce recalls. "In 1978 Mrs Thatcher went to the States and said she was going to wipe out the NEB at a stroke. Nobody wanted to be associated with Inscac after that."

He did not stay to see Inscac's lingering death. Soon after the 1979 election he formed Aregon.

Now, after five years building up Aregon to become a £4m company, John Pearce is ready to try the cooperative approach once again. Pearce Technology has created an international marketing company which will ease UK software companies into profitable exports.

"The biggest problem the UK faces is that we sit in only 5 per

cent of the world market, so we don't always see what the world wants," Pearce said. "By setting up international distribution networks we shall be able to come back to this country and tell people what sorts of products are needed."

John Pearce is not parting with Aregon: it has become the first acquisition of Pearce Technology. The new venture has also established a terminal company to market Excom 100, the text/graphics workstation developed by Aregon.

"Venture capital is being invested in a lot of small software companies today and in a year or two's time they will all come up for air and ask what they should do about marketing," Pearce says. "We are interested in people knocking on our door."

In pursuit of the pirates

● From Rod Cousens, managing director, Quicksilver Ltd, Southampton vice chairman, GOSH:

Recent articles in *The Times* have drawn attention to the aspect of computer software piracy. It is an industry which, although still in its infancy, has made a significant contribution to the economy and enjoys an unrivalled growth pattern. It is now at risk as a result of illicit copying which is increasing to levels which give cause for serious concern. As a consequence of effective measures in the video and music business, attention has been switched to this market, potentially more attractive and not posing such a threat due to the complacent attitude by the companies involved.

The Guild of Software Houses is aggressively campaigning to restrict this menace and is proposing a legal fund, made up of contributions from the membership and other interested parties. A sub-committee to investigate piracy and monitor the situation has been

set up. This will comprise of regional representation and co-operation with trading standard officers, the police and solicitors with a view to civil proceedings.

In association with other groups, F.A.S.T., F.A.C.T. and The Computer Reform Group, Members of Parliament are being urged to pass protective legislation. The pace at which the industry operated would

more people would buy them and they would get a higher return from increased turnover.

Most people would prefer a good shop-bought copy than a pirate version, but people will put up with poor reproductions for the sake of cost. I want educational programs for myself and my children, but not at present prices. One of the results of overpricing is that education authorities are producing their own material, so the software producers are going to lose out in the end because of such short sightedness.

● From I. Dale Owen, Cliff Walk, Penarth, South Glamorgan:

It has become universally fashionable to blame computers for any lapses which occur in services to the public. Following a mix-up recently by a well-known national organisation over the renewal of an annual subscription, I was given a ready apology. I was further told by way of explanation that the problem arose because they didn't have a computer. Plus ça change...

LETTERS

indicate standard Parliamentary procedures not to be in accord and therefore some form of priority should be implemented to safeguard the interests and well-being of the creators and publishers.

● From P. Mead, Somerset Avenue, Chessington, Surrey: The software producers are in danger of diluting the golden egg from the goose. They complain of piracy, yet expect the public to pay inflated prices for their programs. Surely if they were to reduce the prices

Books to cheer the marketing manager

Publishers have hit on a rich vein with their computer book lists, and there are three machines in particular which bring a glint to the marketing managers' eye: the Spectrum, BBC and Commodore 64. The 64 has been around long enough to have built up a strong base, both of users and support, from software and publishing houses and still a continuing stream of new titles roll off the presses.

They range from the simple teach yourself style right through to technical subjects like ROM disassembly.

A well thought out book which falls into the first category is *Getting most from your Commodore 64* by Mark Harrison. This takes the newcomer who has digested the machine instruction manual along the well trodden path of early programming, dealing with BASIC commands, graphics and sound. A more comprehensive volume, *Mastering the Commodore 64* by A. J. Jones and G. J. Carpenter, takes the programmer with a little knowledge through more complex procedures involving many pages to the SID (sound) chip, graphics and an introduction to machine code programming.

BOOKS

Geoffrey Ellis

If it's games that you are after, *Winning Games on the 64* by Terry Barnett and Stephen Colwill offers listings of such gems as Dippy Dappy, Flip Flag and Bug Bover. There is, however, a more considered section, looking at the SID chip, sprite graphics, and offering useful hints to advanced programmers.

Two titles which look at a more advanced area, are *Advanced Programming Techniques on the Commodore 64* by David Lawrence and *The Complete Commodore 64 ROM Disassembly* by Peter Gerrard and Kevin Bergin.

The David Lawrence book succeeds in helping the user to construct programs that are less wasteful of precious memory, run faster, and do more.

The final title from Gerrard and Bergin takes the user into the depths of the machine, probing at the very core, listing memory maps, the complete 6510 machine code instruction set and the disassembly itself. If you feel like impressing your neighbouring passenger on the train, then look no further.

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Books to cheer the marketing manager

Gadget games to help the patient

by Alan Lewis

Imaginative gadgets coupled with computers are proving medically valuable at a new clinic for testing neuromuscular damage and measuring the effectiveness of treatment.

One test involves a video screen and a random pursuit tracking game. Holding a control stick, the patients work to keep an "X" on the screen inside a fast moving rectangle. Throughout this test of hand-eye co-ordination, the computer calculates an error score.

Hand tremor is measured with the arm extended and the hand held inside a loop containing an electric field. Here the computer can detect and quantify movement in both horizontal and vertical directions.

Researchers at the Functional Assessment clinic in Dallas, Texas, use their video displays for coordination and reaction tests, sequences of lights for memory evaluations. They also use touch sensitive plates to measure speed, strength and coordination in patients handicapped by neuromuscular diseases like multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease. The touch plates are also helpful in testing spinal cord injuries and adult palsy.

The laboratory's testing system is also useful for assessing mental alertness, vision, hearing and selected activities of everyday life.

There is a platform for measuring sway and co-ordination. Standing unassisted proves difficult for many patients lacking neuromuscular control. The degree of imbalance in right, left, fore and aft directions is measured by the computer as the patient's weight shifts off the body's centre of gravity.

Leg and foot coordination is measured by tapping metal plates while sitting in a chair. Parkinson's Disease patients, for example, may know what they want their feet and legs to do when asked to tap on the plates.

But when they try repeated tapping, alternating from a target sensor to the left and then a target to the right, they may begin a laboured quivering motion. By measuring a detectable lack of coordination and speed, doctors can now make proper alterations in their treatment.

A computer documents whether patients with chronic neuromuscular disorders, such as multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease, are milliseconds slower in their movements this year than last.

Orthopaedic surgeons will shortly use the system to measure subtle rehabilitative changes in patients following surgery.

This project represents the clinical phase of a 5-year research grant given the group jointly by the National Institute for Handicapped Research. The grant will enable the additions of equipment that will measure gait, range of limb motion and receptivity of nerves in tendons and muscles. The effectiveness of the testing system will also be evaluated.



Molly Lowell with the Inter-Action mobile computer unit

Off on the road from Camelot

by Nicholas Timmins

Sir Geoffrey Otten, the DHSS civil servant in charge of social security, is reported to have said that computerising it is a task comparable to putting a man on the moon.

For the millions of social security claimants, facing miscalculations in benefit, missing files, incomprehensible rules, and a system in which one hand of the DHSS too often appears not to know what the other hand is doing, the chance of the department achieving such an ambitious goal must seem remote.

But that is what now, at the second attempt, is being tried. The aim, over some 15 years, at a cost of about £700m, and with orders for computers and terminals that make any other UK project pale into insignificance, is to put the social security system on to computers.

DHSS is ready to learn from disaster and program 50m

The task is gargantuan. It involves computerising lifetime files on about 50 million people, with some information on individuals held on average five times over. In excess of 1,200 million payments are made each year. Changes in benefit rules can run to thousands of pages every year and some 20,000 different forms are used inside and outside DHSS to administer the payments. The stakes are high. If the programme is fully achieved, more than 30,000 terminals are likely to be installed in DHSS offices by the end of the 1990s. The system offers theoretical savings of £1.9 billion, plus 20,000 to 25,000 jobs over 15 to 20 years, a prospect the unions are far from pleased about.

The story starts with CAMELOT, the first attempt to take social security from the age of the ball-point pen and into VDUs. The project proved as ill-fated as Arthur's effort of the same name, though shorter lived.

CAMELOT (Computerisation and Mechanisation of Local Office Tasks) began in 1977 and was intended to produce a national computer system in the DHSS's 500 local offices between 1981 and 1986. It was abandoned in 1981 after £12m had been spent and next to no progress made.

CAMELOT was something of a block-busting approach to the problem. It involved 26 ICL 2950 mainframe computers throughout the DHSS regions. It was plagued by the heavy loss of DHSS programming staff to better paid jobs in the private sector, by poor planning and control.

By early 1981, the size of the programmes had increased to the stage where it was unlikely the computers would have been able to cope with them. The project was dropped.

The department claims to have learnt from the disaster, and the result, entitled the "Operational Strategy", is a bite-sized approach to the problem.

It consists not of one or two, but 14 separate though inter-linked computer projects which are being developed as part of an overall plan, with sufficient flexibility to allow the programme to change as it develops. That at least is the theory, and so far it appears a lot more promising than Camelot.

The social security system essentially falls into three parts.

The first is national insurance contributions; the second is assessing people's entitlement to benefits, some of which such as pensions are linked to national insurance contributions, and some of which such as supplementary benefit, are not; and paying over the money.

Actual payments for some benefits - pensions and child benefit for example - are computerised already, but mainly through old-fashioned batch-processing on mainframe computers. Contributions to benefits are computerised in much the same way. Assessment is not, and there is no direct computerised link between assessment, contribution records and payments.

The first part of the operational strategy, and the only part firmly agreed, is LOMP - the Local Office Microcomputer Project. It will involve installing 2,700 microcomputers over a nine-month period in 1985 in the 500 local offices - about six to an office. The supplementary benefit rules run to almost 16,000 paragraphs, and assessing claims is not easy.

The microcomputer will carry all the rules, ensuring all the relevant questions are asked and that the sums add up correctly - something that fails to happen in over 10 per cent of cases at present.

The result should be a faster, fairer, more accurate assessment, with other spin-offs such as a readable copy of the assessment for claimants from a computer print-out, instead of the notoriously illegible carbons which claimants get at present.

Four suppliers, British Olivetti, BT Merlin and Logica, Gresham Lion Electronics and Casu Electronics, and Systime Computers, are bidding for the contract. LOMP, however, will merely assess benefit, not pay it. That will come with the first part of the local office project, due to go national in 1988, and on which key decisions are due shortly.

The department's biggest difficulty is to convince the Treasury

It will involve tying in the local office VDUs to mainframe computers in the area offices which will be capable of paying benefit and making the annual upratings, not just for supplementary benefit but for sickness and other short-term benefits.

For the contributory payments to be brought in, online access will be needed to computers holding the contribution records at Newcastle, and decisions on whether to make that change are unlikely for some years yet.

It is likely to be a long and controversial road. The department has, for example, introduced a plastic machine-readable National Insurance card, which offers the option of further automating the system. It has led to fears, firmly dismissed by ministers, that it could form the basis of a national identity card system.

DHSS unions are likely to take some convincing that the systems offer real benefits, not just fewer jobs, and there is the question of whether simplifying the system might not increase the take-up of benefit, £1 billion of which goes unclaimed at present.

The department's crucial difficulty, however, is likely to be convincing the Treasury that the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds really will produce the savings and improvements envisaged.

Dropping in with the 'chip' show

by Peta Levi

The boom in computer camps, where a course can cost around £100 a week, all found, causes some concern to Ed Berman, director of Inter-Action, which last summer helped to establish 17 community computer camps. Lack of computer knowledge and understanding could, he believes, create social problems for some members of the community, particularly the underprivileged young.

In 1982 Inter-Action, which has a 15-year record of devising and promoting model projects for community self-help groups such as City Farms, started a pilot community computer scheme in Kentish Town, London, for 11 to 16-year-olds. This was four times over-subscribed; 50 per cent of the places went to underprivileged children, who paid £5 for the week's course while the remainder paid £25.

Inter-Action, which has developed ways of tapping local resources into a fine art, is now applying its skills to locate, among other things, under-used computer equipment (in universities, polytechnics, schools and businesses), empty buildings and voluntary help (inspiring people to organize committees, raise funds, apply for local grants, obtain local paid computer expertise or simply make refreshments). Anyone can apply to Inter-Action for its free advice on how to set up a community computer camp. Inter-Action only offers advice - the community camps are completely independent.

This year Inter-Action has gone one stage further. The Department of Trade and Industry has given it a £32,000 grant to help get a mobile computer unit rolling round the country; and more than £70,000 worth of computer equipment has been supplied by Acorn, Torch, Sinclair, Newbury Data, Ashton-Tate, Gemini, Apple, Perfect Software, BASF, Atari and Commodore.

A van fitted with equipment for slide/tape shows is being converted so that it also houses some computers; a trailer carries roll-on, roll-off computer equipment which can quickly be set up in different locations. The unit, which has already visited eight cities, will tour 12 more throughout Britain over the next three months.

The unit has two purposes. The first is to make the public more aware and less frightened of computers and their applications. The unit is set up in shopping centres and people are invited to come in and have some hands-on experience and a discussion with Inter-Action's computer camp.

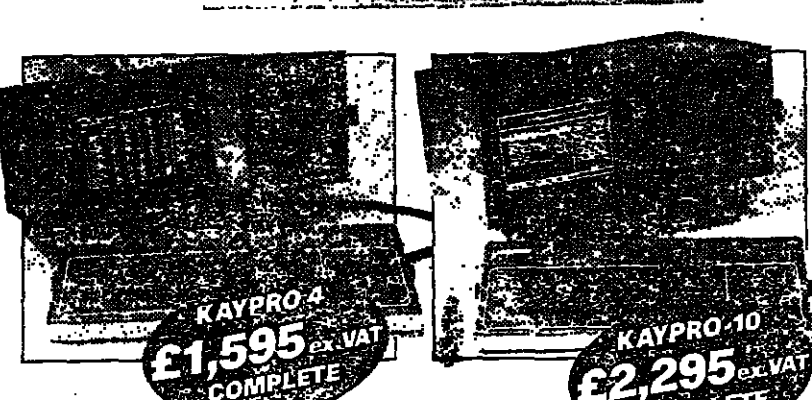
Second, the unit offers three-hour introductory sessions on micro-computers at selected venues. These are free to local authority employees, voluntary agencies, youth and community workers and anyone interested in setting up a community camp/course.

Molly Lowell, the unit's field director, said: "We have been surprised to find how many people have computers which they don't know how to utilize. They need to identify what they want their computer to do. Most adults, whether teachers, administrators or businessmen, don't want to learn to write their own programs. They do want to know how to handle a computer, to understand package programs and, having chosen the package, to be able to implement it."

Although Inter-Action's sessions do not go beyond the introductory stage, they are geared to putting like-minded people in touch with each other so that local courses, providing professional consultancy on a particular area or problem, can be organized economically. Berman's aim is that within the next two to three years a national federation of community computer camps will be established to coordinate the activities of 500 regional voluntary agencies.

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Rome fans stage an early kick off

In a foretaste of the atmosphere likely on May 30, police yesterday fought a pitched battle to disperse crowds thronging to buy tickets for the European Cup Final on that date at the Olympic stadium here between Roma and Liverpool (John Earle writes from Rome). Twelve people were reported injured including three policemen, while at least ten were detained.

Trouble started when the few hundred who had slept outside all night were joined by another 8,000, pressing against the three ticket windows. Police were called. The situation soon degenerated into a riot in which the forces of law and order, supported by a mounted unit and a helicopter, fired tear gas to meet a hail of stones and bottles.

Cars were damaged and traffic in the area was blocked. In the Chamber of Deputies two members of the small left-wing party Democrazia Proletaria immediately tabled a question asking the Government why, in view of the obvious possibility of incidents, the authorities had failed to take adequate precautions to ensure law and order.

20,000 in miners' protest march

Continued from page 1

miners were taking on the establishment in this country.

In a reference to Nottinghamshire miners who have been given a police escort to work, he insisted: "The police, who are now befriending them, will be kicking lumps out of them if they go out on strike".

The syndicalist vein was also pulsing blood. Mr Jack Taylor, president of the Yorkshire miners, said: "We can cross frontiers we have never dreamed of. We can not only stop pit closures, we can have socialism."

They cheered him, as they cheered all the speakers. They did not hear or did not heed the shop girls in the streets of Mansfield telling them: "Get back to work". It was strike day yesterday, and nothing was going to get in the way.



Football fever: Italian police firing teargas yesterday at fans trying to buy European Cup tickets.

Heseltine changes tack over Navy

Continued from page 1

crisis there would be time to get them out of mothballs and back into service.

Mr Heseltine made it clear yesterday that he was still adhering to Sir John Nott's target of reducing the fleet of destroyers and frigates to 50. At present there are about 55 in service.

Two Rothery class frigates, Lowestoft and Rothery, which first entered service in the early 1960s, and which were to have been paid off this year or next will now be retained in service.

Only five ships had been actually identified as candidates for the standby squadron, and will now stay in service. These are the County Class destroyer, Glamorgan, and four Leander class frigates, Penelope, Ariadne, Achilles and Apollo. These ships entered service between 1963 and 1972.

Achilles was at one stage to be paid off as early as 1982, and Glamorgan, Ariadne and Apollo had once been scheduled to leave active service this year.

Mr Heseltine denied that his decision amounted to an abandonment of Sir John Nott's policies. He said since 1981 there has been some increased perception of the role of the navy outside the Nato area, and means of making other savings had emerged which were not part of the advice which Sir John received in 1981.

The offsetting manpower economies are to be achieved through a run-down of shore-based establishments.

Mr Denzil Davies, chief Labour Party spokesman on defence, said the white paper avoided the real and deepening problem of Britain's over-extended defence commitments and displayed no fresh thinking on strategy. It particularly ignored the crisis in defence spending which would arise in a few years especially when expenditure on Trident began to bite.

Mr Jack Dromey, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union said "Mr Heseltine believes that Britain can be defended by Trident and cruise, backed by Sainsbury's and Securicor. Paying for his nuclear obsession means running down Britain's conventional defences and, now, handing over vital support services to private hands."

● Doubled cost: The cost of Trident is now estimated at more than £9,000 million following the recent devaluation of the pound against the dollar - double the initial estimate.

Letter from Athens

Paper monuments face destruction

Fakelos is Greek for envelope. It also means a security police file, the kind that keeps track of a citizen's ideological beliefs, political activity and private life with Orwellian solicitude. Every respectable Greek, especially those with left-leaning sympathies, has one. Like a birthmark, it follows him to the grave, sometimes even beyond.

Officials claim there are about 30 million of them, which seems absurd for a country of just under 10 million people. But there is a lot of duplication by the other intelligence services.

It is not surprising, therefore, that all the Socialist campaign promises few were more popular than the pledge that all the files would be destroyed when they came to power.

Two and half years later, the Socialist Government suddenly announced that it would use the *fakelos* to build bonfires in every Greek town. But the decision was hastily revoked after protests from the victims of the *fakelos* system themselves, who now want them preserved for posterity.

The practice of keeping records on people suspected of subverting democracy was understandable immediately after the end of the civil war in the early 1950s. Later, however, it became a tool of right-wing political oppression, dividing Greeks between "nationalists" and "anarcho-communists". No grey areas in between were tolerated.

Every *fakelos* is a monument to the work of innumerable little men wearing the universal felt hat, raincoat and sunglasses, reading last week's newspaper under the tree opposite, hoping to spot some peccadillo to stuff into somebody's *fakelos*. Failing solid facts, imaginative speculation filled the gaps.

Once someone was marked down as a "baddie", he would be barred from taking a state job and denied a passport or a driving licence, or a permit to enrol as a seaman, or to exercise a profession.

Lesser "baddies" would be called in by the police to clear themselves without being told the allegations in the *fakelos*. Most would be made to sign statements repudiating communism "and all its evil ramifications", promising to be loyal to the state.

At worst, the *fakelos* is

known to have broken up families, plunged them into the despair of unemployment and caused frequent police harassment. When a handful of army colonels seized power in 1967, they relied on these files to round up anyone likely to resist their actions.

When, on the seventeenth anniversary of the coup last month, Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, announced that all police files would be destroyed publicly in Athens and every provincial capital on May 6. Objections to this radical solution came from those who had suffered most from the practice - the Communists. How else, they argued, could they prove their struggles for the cause?

The Communist Party asked that each citizen should be entitled to take possession of his *fakelos*. Never, claimed Mr Yiannis Skoularikis, the Minister of Public Order. This would set off a chain of bloody vendettas, since it would mean disclosing the names of those who had informed.

The party also wanted to ensure that the gigantic computers recently supplied to the security services had not already digested all the contents of the *fakelos*. So it demanded legislation making it a punishable offence to use the contents of one of these files in evidence.

Other political parties demanded the *fakelos* of leading members for their own archives, while Greek historians protested that this was invaluable material for the study of Contemporary Greek history. Some Greeks were horrified by the thought that Greek History should have police informants and stool pigeons as primary sources.

Faced with this wall of objections the Government postponed the destruction of the files. "More time is needed to produce the appropriate legislation and to hear the views of other parties", it said. But it reassured the public that its decision to destroy them was final and irrevocable.

The only question was whether the *fakelos* would be committed to the flames or be reduced to pulp for recycling into toilet paper. That would, in a sense, be an appropriate fate for one of the least creditable practices of right-wing regimes in Greece.

Mario Modiano

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will present the 1984 Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion at Buckingham Palace, 2.30; and later will open the Topical Exhibition "Memories of the Century" at Archway, 5.2, Concert Hall Approach, SE1, 4.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will present the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Awards at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 2.35.

The Princess Anne will visit Belgium's 200th store in Woodley, Berkshire, 3, and later will open the Wilde Theatre at South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire, 4.

Princess Margaret visits RMS St Helena at Avonmouth Docks, Bristol, 12.45; and later attends the opening of an exhibition by Wedgwood to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the founding of the firm, Wigmore Street, W1, 6.35.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, will visit W. S. Atkins, Group Consultants, Epsom, Surrey, 11; and later as President, Cancer Research Campaign, will present awards to the 500 Group at Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, 6.45.

Prince Michael of Kent visits British Motor Industry's Heritage Trust at Studley, Warwickshire, 11.30; and later as President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, attends DNI dinner at the Penta Hotel, Heathrow, Middlesex, 8.

Princess Michael of Kent visits International Social Services International Spring Fair at Kensington Town Hall, 5.45.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending May 6

- 1 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 15.05m
- 2 The Benny Hill Show (Thurs) 12.55m
- 3 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 11.50m
- 4 Trolch and Trolch (TV) 11.45m
- 5 That's My Boy (Sat) 11.25m
- 6 Crossroads (Thurs) Central, 10.55m
- 7 Crossroads (Tue) Central, 10.55m
- 8 What's My Line (Thurs) 10.55m
- 9 Crossroads (Wed) Central, 10.55m
- 10 T. J. Hooker (Fri) 10.55m

- 1 Dallas, 11.55m
- 2 Missing From Home, 11.55m
- 3 Last of the Summer Wine, 11.10m
- 4 Eurovision Song Contest 1984, 9.75m
- 5 A Question of Sport, 9.55m
- 6 News (Sun) 9.55m
- 7 Our Henry's 9.55m
- 8 News (Sat) 9.55m
- 9 Nine o'Clock News (Wed), 9.10m
- 10 Nine o'Clock News (Tue), 8.55m
- 11 Massmind, 8.55m

- 1 World Snooker (Sun) 22.12, 6.10m
- 2 World Snooker (Sun) 22.12, 6.00m
- 3 World Snooker (Fri) 21.01, 5.40m
- 4 World Snooker (Sat) 21.01, 5.00m
- 5 Call My Bluff, 5.10m
- 6 World Snooker (Tue) 21.40, 5.00m
- 7 World Snooker (Wed) 21.40, 5.00m
- 8 World Snooker (Sat) 21.40, 4.00m
- 9 World Snooker (Sun) 21.40, 4.00m
- 10 World Snooker (Sun) 21.40, 4.00m

- 1 News, 4.55m
- 2 The News, 4.55m
- 3 Brookside (Wed), 2.45m
- 4 Brookside (Tue), 2.45m
- 5 Africa, 2.55m
- 6 Chivers, 2.30m
- 7 Cooper's Golden Bell, 2.10m
- 8 Agony, 1.75m
- 9 I Told a Woman, 1.65m
- 10 Upstairs, Downstairs, 1.55m

- 1 Smokey (Sun), 59.00m
- 2 Smokey (Sun), 59.00m
- 3 Trolch and Trolch (TV), 51.00m
- 4 Smokey (Fri), 46.00m
- 5 Smokey (Sat), 44.00m
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Roads

London and South-east A4: Talgarth road (eastbound): N. right turn at North End Road, West Kensington, expect congestion.

A12: Carriageway widths reduced east and westbound in Colchester Road, Harold Hill, Romford, between Galloway Corner and Peterfield Road. Reduced road-widths between Burdett Road and Grove Road at Junction with A11, Mile End Road, traffic lights switched off.

Middlesex A52: Single-lane traffic on Nottingham-Grantham road at Muston Bend; temporary signals. A6: Contraflow on Derby-Leicester road at Hathers. A34: Contraflow on Stone-Newcastle road at Strong-falls.

Wales and West A380: Single-lane traffic with temporary lights on Exeter-Newton Abbot road at Telegraph Hill, Devon. A561: Temporary traffic signals NE of Taunton, Somerset. A48: Road-works at Crickhowell, Powys, on Abernethy to Brecon road.

North: Refurbishing at Queensway Tunnel, Queensway Tunnel closed at Mersey Tunnels; Night between 9.15 and 5.45 am. A536: Diversion from Park Green to St Georges Street, Macclesfield. A66: Single-lane traffic and temporary lights on bridge at Eden Lodge, Kirby Thorpe, 4 miles NW of Appleby.

Scotland: A74: South-bound carriageway closed S of A70 to S of B740. Two-way traffic on A740. One lane each way in Duke Street at Barrack Street, Glasgow, delays. A81: Lane closures in Meltinghill Road between Kensington Road and Gray Drive, Beards.

The AA has called on the Greater London Council to remove immediately and permanently the experimental right turn on the Talgarth Road, A4, at the junction with North End Road. A spokesman said the right turn experiment was sadly not an example of good traffic management but rather an irresponsible act, aimed at keeping cars out of central London. On the M4, the queue reached back 10 miles to Heathrow Airport. There were serious delays on the A4, the North Circular Road, (west) and on the A316 from the SW.

The papers

The Daily Star talks of the "disgraceful" situation involved in selling Russia surplus food at cut-price and ploughing back quantities of fruit and vegetables. "The obvious thing to do is to give our own people the chance of buying at cut-price prices. Naturally, that is too obvious for the bureaucrats", it says. "But there must be a better way than just handing it over to Russia so they can make profits out of their housewives. All over the under-developed world - particularly drought-ridden Africa - millions of people are suffering hunger, if not actual starvation. Is it beyond the wit of Europeans to get some of that surplus food to them? Fruit wouldn't keep, perhaps, but surely flour, butter, beef and sugar could be shipped out to people desperate for nourishment? Who would begrudge paying our producers their guaranteed price?"

Retail Price Index: 345.1, London: the FT closed up 3 at 874.

Weather forecast

A week trough of low pressure will move slowly eastwards across northern and western parts of Scotland.